

# California GARDEN

50 Cents

Published by the SAN DIEGO FLORAL  
ASSOCIATION — SINCE 1909

April-May 1969



14<sup>th</sup> Western  
ORCHID  
Congress



# Floral events . . .

Shows in Conference Building, Balboa Park unless listed otherwise.

**SAN DIEGO ROSE SOCIETY**—April 12th, 2-9 p.m.; April 13th, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**CORONADO FLORAL ASSOCIATION SHOW**—Spreckels Park on Orange Ave. between 6th & 7th. "Coronado Blooms for the 200th Anniversary." Dates April 12, 2-7 p.m.; April 13, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**WESTERN ORCHID CONGRESS "Fiesta de Orquideas"**

April 17, Premier Preview—Garden Center Benefit, 7-10 p.m.

April 18 & 19, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; April 20, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

**GENERAL DYNAMICS/CONVAIR ROSE SHOW**—Floral Building April 19, 2-9 p.m.; April 20, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

• **SPECIAL ATTRACTION!** April 19th at 1:15 p.m.—"Tea and Flowers" will be a special tea and flower-arranging with use of orchids. Demonstration by *Tai Shimo* of Waleria, California. Stardust Room, Stardust Hotel, Mission Valley in San Diego. Admission including tea and goodies, \$3.50. For information, call Floral office M.W.F. from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**FALLBROOK GARDEN CLUB 38TH ANNUAL SHOW**—"A Century of Blooms" (Fallbrook's 100th Anniversary.) Open to all exhibitors in North San Diego County. For information, call Mrs. Roman Shore, 728-7044. April 19th and 20th, Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall, Fallbrook.

**SAN DIEGO-IMPERIAL COUNTIES IRIS SOCIETY "Iris Fiesta"** April 26, 1:30-6 p.m.; April 27, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

**ESCONDIDO STANDARD FLOWER SHOW**, April 26-27, 1-8 p.m. and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.—Escondido Village Mall, 1275 E. Valley Parkway. Free.

**SAN DIEGO BONSAI SOCIETY**—

May 3, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.; May 4, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**POINT LOMA GARDEN CLUB**—

May 2, Show will be at the Cabrillo National Monument, Point Loma, 1-5 p.m.

**MISSION VALLEY CENTER FLOWER AND GARDEN SHOW**, San Diego, May 22, 23, and 24.

**SO. CALIF. EXPO Flower Show**, June 25-July 6, Del Mar.

**SAN DIEGO DAHLIA SOCIETY**—August 1st thru 4th. Nat'l Convention.



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SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION PROGRAMS — Third Tuesday, Floral Building, Balboa Park — Chairman, Mrs. Eugene Cooper

## Bus Tours

**BUSCH GARDENS TOUR**—Thursday, April 17, \$6.50: Luncheon stop and time for browsing at the Topanga Canyon Shopping Center. At Busch Gardens there is a monorail tour through the brewery, free beer, a free bird show. The spring bulbs should be in bloom at this time. Leave Balboa Park at 8:30 a.m. and La Jolla Public Library at 9:00 a.m.

**BAKER'S HALF-DOZEN TOUR**—Thursday, April 24 and Saturday, May 17, \$6.00 each date: Tour beautiful San Diego County north country. Stops at a shell store, a cacti nursery and growing grounds. (The cacti and eppies will be at their peak of bloom.) No-host luncheon stop will be at the colorful Oceanside Marina. Many restaurants offer a wide food selection from fish or chowder to international sandwiches. Afternoon stops include Mission San Luis Rey and a visit to a Vista potter's workshop and sales room. A winery and wine tasting room is our last stop. We will return to San Diego about 5 p.m. Buses load Balboa Park at 8:30 a.m., La Jolla Public Library, 9:00 a.m.

**JULIAN WILD FLOWER SHOW**—Saturday, May 10, \$6.00: Each year the Julian Woman's Club puts on a wild flower show the Saturday before Mother's Day. They also put on a weed show which we will tour in August. This tour will travel east through Alpine and Pine Valley. Stops include San Diego's Old Mission in Mission Valley. No-host lunch, hours same as above.

**FARMER'S MARKET AND LOS ANGELES COUNTY ART MUSEUM**—Thursday and Saturday, June 5 & 7, \$6.50 each date: The present Farmer's Market will be torn down to make way for a freeway. After a no-host lunch and time for browsing at Farmer's Market, the tour will continue to Los Angeles County Art Museum. If you aren't an art buff . . . Buffums and many other interesting stores are across the street from the museum! Buses load Balboa Park at 8:30 a.m., La Jolla Public Library, 9 a.m.

**RESERVATIONS AND INFORMATION**—San Diego Floral Association Office hours 10 to 3 Mon.-Wed.-Fri. Telephone 232-5762 or call residence of Mrs. Donald A. Innis, Telephone 298-1690.



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SINCE 1909

# CALIFORNIA GARDEN

California's Own Garden Magazine

April - May, 1969

No. 2

Vol. 60

## THE COVER

A beautiful orchid — Sc. Amber Glow, "Copper Halo" (Sc. Doris Pamela, AM/AOS ODC x Lc. Amber Glow, "Olala", AM/ODC. This unusual, shiny-as-a-penny hybrid is the result of a cross between the dwarf-growing scarlet red—Sc. Doris Pamela and the classically-formed butter yellow Lc. Amber Glow. The cross gave but a scant 25 seedlings with two having bloomed to date. The one pictured on our cover has never been shown. We thank Frank Fordyce for the photograph of this lovely orchid and for making the color cover of this issue available to us.

LAST ISSUE: February-March cover photo was taken by Mr. Eugene Cooper.

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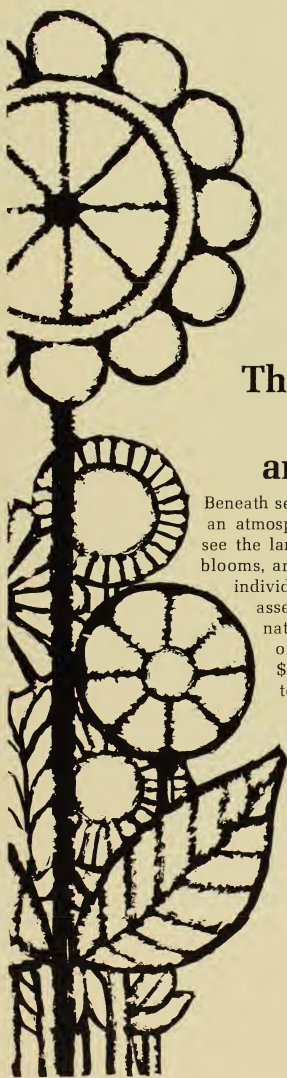
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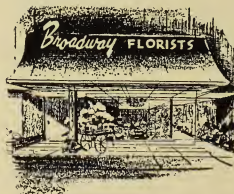
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*Well-planned landscaping adds to the beauty of this waterfall setting executed by the Frederick R. Stubbins in the garden of their La Jolla home. Materials were provided by Hazard Products, Inc. of Mission Valley.*

PHOTO BY ROY ROBINSON

## HAVE A WATERFALL IN YOUR GARDEN

**T**HE SOUND OF THE SURF crashing on the rocks below their home in the Diamond Head section of Honolulu was one of the things Mr. and Mrs. Frederick R. Stubbins missed most when they moved to La Jolla from Hawaii.

Since they both had long enjoyed the restful cadence of the sea, the couple agreed that the sound of the surf could probably best be replaced by the sound of a tumbling waterfall.

In choosing their new mainland home on La Jolla's Beaumont Street, the Stubbins selected a residence that promised ample space for an area that would accommodate their desired waterfall as well as provide natural beauty in a landscaped setting.

The choice of a site for the waterfall also was carefully considered to permit ample sunlight for the growing things the Stubbins had planned for their backyard retreat.

After consulting with specialists at the

Mission Valley store of Hazard Products, Inc., Mr. Stubbins selected his basic materials, which included Arizona sandstone, feather rock boulders and Hazard cement blocs.

He also took advantage of Hazard's garden center, where he acquired a number of fern varieties as well as azaleas, camellias, philodendron, bird of paradise, ginger and strawberry plants.

With his supplies at hand, Mr. Stubbins first constructed a three-foot retaining wall of Hazard bloc, behind which he placed top soil fill, adding the Arizona sandstone and feather rock boulders for artistic cover.

He then installed a pump which circulates 500 gallons of water per hour to the fall, which rises a distance of seven feet above the ground. Three collecting basins were placed at intervals to heighten the waterfall sound effect.

Now, Mr. and Mrs. Stubbins say, the only thing missing in their garden is a view of Diamond Head. ■



*Mr. Craig relaxing during a visit in the Eugene Cooper home.*

*• Tom Craig, iris hybridizer, passed away recently, leaving a multitude of iris friends mourning his loss*

## A Tribute to a Friend

by Barbara Serdinsky

HOW DOES ONE WRITE about a man who himself excelled in writing ability, was an outstanding hybridizer as well as an accomplished artist? Remarkable, dynamic, devoted and amazing are words that come to mind in an effort to do justice to Tom Craig.

Perhaps it would be easier to appreciate his many talents if we looked back through the years and started with Tom the boy and young man.

He was born June 16th, 1908 in Upland, California, the son of the late Dr. and Mrs. Wm. T. Craig. As a youngster, his interest in collecting items for the biological sciences dominated his activities and his collections were so advanced that by the time he was ten years old he was listed in the Naturalist Directory (a reference book where scientists who do not have time to collect specimens can have it done professionally). By the time he entered high school he was already an advanced student of biology and was soon placed in Junior college biology classes.

He entered Pomona College majoring in science but became interested in Art, due to the close association of one of his professors and well known Art Historian, Jose Pejoan. In his junior year he transferred to the University of California and, following his scientific drive, served as research assistant in zoology. He later returned to Pomona College and graduated in 1932 with a BA degree and Phi Beta

Kappa. During this time he continued to study art.

Through Jose Pejoan, Tom had the opportunity to meet Dr. Stillman Berry (Ph.D. Biology) of Redlands, California, who was most interested in iris. He collected mollusks for Dr. Berry's research and later illustrated Dr. Berry's articles but took his pay in iris. Thus, his first real contact with the iris world was made.

### His First Hybridizing Program

Not a man to take the easiest way of doing things, his thoughts now turned toward the Van Tubergen's Regelio-cyclus iris crosses; knowing they were near perfect in beauty but were rather difficult to grow and required special care and attention. He accepted this challenge and his first hybridizing program started. His idea was to promote better growing habits incorporating greater vigor so every one would be able to grow them. Branching out with this program he then decided to use tall bearded iris as pod parents; getting the onco flower onto the plants by in-breeding strong onco-breds and by using onco pollen on the seedlings.

By now the garden, and home, atop Mt. Washington was fully planted to onco seedlings (as he once told me—"My beloved children"). Here, Tom's lovely wife and inspiration, shared the joy as well as the responsibilities of maintaining this vast hybridizing program now under

way. Tom was now the father of one son, Ivan.

Here we briefly interrupt and digress from the world of iris into an entirely different environment . . . now, the roar and thunder of World War II echoed across the nation. Tom dutifully heeded the call to arms and left for overseas. During the grim battles and hardships of war his superior skills and talents were not to be wasted. He was employed as an artist correspondent and staff photographer for *Life* magazine and also served in the Italian theater as an artist in the front lines. He was one of the first Americans to enter Florence, Italy at the time of the Partisan Liberation. Even so, frequent letters were sent home with instructions about various crosses he wanted made . . . and Frances, his wife, followed every written order.

### Association with C. G. White

He returned from the war to find his garden full of flowering hybrids and the urge to go forward was stronger than ever. He visited the garden of the late C. G. White (an Aril hybridizer and the originator of the now famous C. G. White hybrids). Both men were fascinated to even dare think such flowers could exist and decided then to share their views and accomplishments. Tom made special use of CAPITOLA, IB-MAC and JOPPA PARROT and was one of the first to gain success in obtaining seed from the difficult Mohrs by intercrossing some of the C. G. White onco-breds. The seedlings now showed such growth and improvement the hardest job was making the correct selections to keep and to use for breeding. Iris were growing in every inch of available space.

### The Move to Escondido

Room to stretch out; room to grow more iris was badly needed if this program was to flourish so the family, now three boys and twin girls, moved to the 250-acre ranch north of Escondido and was rightfully named: "Rancho de Las Flores." It wasn't easy as many troubles prevailed, along with illness in the family, but determination and the will to conquer prevailed at all times.

About this time Tom's progressive and diligent ideas produced a beautiful Mohr

*Continued page 24*





PHOTO BY BETTY COOPER

## Chocolate Bells!

by Helen V. Witham

**P**ERHAPS it is the very unexpectedness of it: a flower with exactly the color and sheen of the sauce on a hot fudge sundae? Oh, come on now!

I bring this plant to your attention for three reasons: First, because of its unique blossoms; second, because this is "history year" in California; third, to point up one of the small ways in which man is altering his environment.

Its three folknames, "*Chocolate Lily*," "*Chocolate Bell*," and "*Mission Bell*" seem unavoidable when you consider the shape and color of its flowers. This charming small member of the lily family is *Fritillaria biflora* in the books. Here in the San Diego area it usually stands six to twelve inches high, with one or two bells. Its specific name means "with two bells" and this is the usual case in years of average rainfall, provided the previous March and April were rainy. (As in other bulbs, this year's flowers were made last spring.) Occasionally a plant has three or four bells and I have seen a cultivated one with twelve, but it didn't look six times as pretty as the plant with two; it didn't look right, somehow,—only amazing.

The bells are three-fourths to one inch long, with the six-parted perianth common to liliaceous plants, six golden anthers symmetrically arranged, and three-parted pistil of yellow-green. Color varies from shining chocolate-brown to greenish-brown or almost purple. Leaves have much the smooth texture and shining green color of our familiar Easter lilies. The two-inch medallion in the picture will give you an idea of scale.

Now the bit of history: the medallion was a Flower Show award, "Zinnia Sweepstakes," won by Mr. Emerson Cooper (Father of Eugene Cooper) in the early 1940's. Note how well the leaf and flower lend themselves to the circular design without losing their identity as Chocolate Lilies. We have been unable to find out who designed it, or for which years it was used. If any of our readers can shed any light on this, please write "Chocolate Lily" in care of this magazine, and we will be delighted to publish your recollections in a later issue.

Now the conservation note: a sad fact is that this charming small lily is being civilized out of existence; it is losing its home to houses and highways. Never

very common in the sense that it covered whole hillsides, it appears in small colonies on north slopes of adobe hills, usually near the top, and on very few adobe hills. It occurs in areas of short grass and small herbaceous plants among scattered bushes of Sagebrush or Wild Buckwheat, or just below the brush on the slope. Its associates are Shooting-Stars, Wild Onions, Brodiaeas, Sanicles, and Star Lilies.

We have here in California an organization of persons interested in our native flora (California Native Plant Society), one of whose aims is to save and relocate, if possible, such uncommon native plants as this when destruction seems imminent as a result of highway or housing development. If any of you know of such a case, please write us. Mr. Frank Gander is trying to get these Chocolate Bells established at Silverwood, where they would have sanctuary forever and would surprise and delight many people in years to come. Or even if you can tell us where they are growing, we could then keep track of them and rush to the rescue when bulldozers appear on the horizon! ■

# Gardening

## A La

### Salad Bowl

by Rosalie F. Garcia



*Our gardening friend  
and author, Rosalie Garcia*

CALIFORNIANS, especially, are addicted to the tossed salad, which is usually limited to one kind of lettuce with a choice of salad dressings: cheese, French, or mayonnaise, or mixtures of these; or lettuce with a few sliced tomatoes, radishes, green onions or cucumbers. For one with a roving eye, a spirit of adventure and a garden there are combinations of taste experiences that can last a lifetime.

Nearly any young vegetable or the center of it will yield crisp morsels to be sliced thinly—not too many—and tossed with the lettuce: small green peas, tips of young asparagus, young turnip hearts, the center buds of cauliflower and Brussel's sprouts, tender stems of broccoli, skinned and sliced. Bean sprouts, marinated in oil and vinegar, celery and green peppers sliced in julienne strips, shreds of all the cabbages give texture and variety. None of these should be smothered in mayonnaise and cheese dressings, but the classic oil and vinegar or lemon juice in a three of oil to one of vinegar poured in the bottom of the salad bowl. Then the vegetables and greens are put in, tossed gently and served immediately to make the appetizer that is so refreshing and healthful.

All of the above mentioned vegetables are in the produce racks, along with a variety of lettuces which come to us crisp and fresh, even though the garden grown are superior. There are the Bibb, the iceberg, romaine, buttercrunch, fardhook and Boston. Since the iceberg has the least taste but best texture, and the romaine keeps the best, one should grow one or

two of the others for variety, for one cannot use all of the heads before they lose their freshness and flavor. The buttercrunch and Bibb make small loose heads of smooth velvety texture, and the oak leaf and ruby, fardhook and Boston are non-heading, colorful and smooth. A row of any of them is decorative and can be wedged in the flower beds. They are productive in a week or two for there are tiny-leaved plants to thin out for eating.

Other greens planted for cooking present tiny succulent leaves: spinach, mustard, chard and kale that liven the salad bowl.

All of the endives are as easy to grow as lettuces and can be used with or instead of lettuce. The common curly kind that is used as garnish is delicious when tender and young. There is a pleasant bitterness that is enticing which becomes too pronounced in the mature plant. Seeds should be planted early, for they are cool weather vegetables. More rare is the French or Belgian endive which looks like romaine, but not so tall. The rosettes should be tied together so the hearts will whiten and grow tighter, for it is the blanched hearts that are eaten.

Similar and often called endive is escarole, Rodan, a hybrid lettuce, a combination of buttercrunch lettuce and romaine produces crisp, buttery heads in much less time, is easier to grow and is sweeter than any of the endives. Getting seeds for any of these is a problem, but Burpee has had all of them, and if they are not in the seed racks, nurserymen can usually get them. All of these can be started in a

coldframe and transplanted.

Plants cultivated for their distinctive flavors and aromas and classified as herbs have long been used in salads, which have come to us from the Orient via the Mediterranean peoples. It is understandable that Northern peoples have come late to the green salad, although they had pickles which they combined with meat, fish and starchy vegetables and foods. Even now and in California, many of our migrants from the Middlewest and Northwest have no fondness for and do not adopt the green salad.

#### *Edible Herbs*

There are so many edible herbs that one must experiment and grow only favorites. All grow from seeds, but nurseries carry the most common ones in little pots on a special herb counter. Some are annuals, but most are perennials. All have attractive foliage and small blossoms and can be counted as ornamentals, which accounts for the classic herb gardens down through the ages. Some like shade and continuous dampness, others full sun and not too much water. The perennials like the mints, sages, chives should be planted where they will not be uprooted every year.

The parsleys which are usually classed as herbs add zip to the salad bowl. The curly kind that comes in meat packages and in bunches in the produce racks is the least palatable for it is usually tough and strong. A few hills of it planted around among the flowers (for it is pretty) will allow one to appreciate it.

The best parsley is the plain, Italian

or Chinese, for it is called all of them, and has the freshest clean taste and is the most hardy. Once planted and a few allowed to go to seed, it becomes perpetual. Married to oil and vinegar it can be eaten alone as a complete salad. Chervil or French parsley has a most piquant and delicate flavor. It is harder to grow, but is worth the effort. The Mexican parsley, "cilantro" as they call it, and coriander to us, is the strongest in flavor and most distinctive of all. Transplanting of parsley is tricky business, for all have tap roots. It is best to plant where they are expected to grow, but if the scoop is sliced down four or five inches and as much soil as possible can be brought with it, and planted in a deep hole, the trick can be accomplished.

### *Onions—et cetera*

The chives, onion and garlic, are tangy tidbits to add to salads, chopped blades which are evergreen and always available. They come from seeds or divisions. They take little space, can be adapted to pots, and be stuck in almost any place in the garden, for aphids hate them and avoid wherever they grow. They make attractive stems of clusters of lavender flowers. Those who do not care for the overpowering onion or garlic like the delicate flavors of these slim green blades to anoint the salad bowl.

Another group of herbs that are all perennial and grow like ground covers, creeping over large spaces are oregano, marjoram, thyme, tarragon, winter and summer savories. All are pungent and should be used sparingly. Some are better when their leaves are dried. Tarragon and the thymes flavor vinegars very well and are better used that way in salads.

The mints have the same growing habits but do better in damp shade. Planted near a water faucet they can catch the drips. They go into a dormant stage in winter, but can be transplanted to a box and set in a warm sunny place and some leaves will be there all the time. The old common wild mint, deep green with a purplish tinge, is the strongest and will take the place with its fast expanding roots if not contained. The hardy peppermint, pale green and strong in flavor is next. The mild and delicate fruit mints, such as the pineapple and apple are all pleasant additions. They go well in fruit salads as well as the tossed green ones.

### *Cresses*

The cresses are herbs and are mostly annuals which add a spiciness and even bite to the salad. The old wild pepper cress is now the curly kind that we cultivate. A few sprigs tossed in give a surprise. The beautiful, fern-like clusters of the upland cress is milder but has an inviting nip.

Watercress, the most delicate and best known, can be grown in the home garden even though its natural habitat is a shady running stream. I have an old granite pan with holes in the bottom, half-filled with rocks and topped with compost, under a water faucet in semi-shade. In the hot dry season I let the faucet drip gently all the time, and the rest of the time see that it is good and moist. I have all I need all the year.

The bitter, the sweet, the peppery and the aromatic needs of the salad have been suggested. We can have sour also in the sorrels, of which there are several. They come from seeds and are perennials which produce pale green leaves all the year. They can be divided and need to be, for they multiply rapidly and profusely. The tender inner leaves add just that sour taste that is augmented so nicely with oil and vinegar.

### *Annuals With Exotic Flavors*

Three more of the annuals will add the exotic to the list of flavors. Sweet basil, both green and purple, are famous and common. It combines texture, spiciness and aroma and makes of sliced tomatoes a dish unto itself, as well as enlivening the green salad. Lesser known is Florence fennel whose thickened stems and ferny leaves have an anise flavor that licorice lovers enjoy. Dill comes in this classification as a tall ferny plant, topped with clusters of white blossoms and myriads of seeds that will scatter all through the garden and send up tender plants all the year. The seeds sprinkled sparingly will add flavor and distinction.

### *Try Flowers for Salads*

These are by no means all the possibilities that one may consciously grow for the salad. A trip around the flower garden has many tidbits in blossoms and leaves. The tender and colorful nasturtium offers its entire plant: chopped stems are juicy and spicy, the young leaves are velvety sweet, the blossoms are sweet and piquant.

A few violet blossoms and tender leaves

add a dimension that is arresting. Very young chrysanthemum leaves and the florets, especially of the spider varieties give a pungent lift. A few marigold petals are like a different pepper and have long been used by the Orientals who pioneered the use of blossoms in cookery. The Mexicans use many blossoms to make drinks or add them as flavors to citrus drinks. Some of the rose petals may be sacrificed, but use only the crisp and fragrant ones, such as the old-fashioned ones. The scented geraniums, rose, lemon and apple leaves rubbed on the sides of the bowl add a haunting fragrance and an elusive gustatory response.

Set out on a quest and make the tossed salad the most exciting part of the meal. Good eating!

*If anyone knows of or grows an Italian salad vegetable called rucola, I should like to hear about it. It is sold in Eastern markets and often featured in Italian restaurants, but I do not find it here. RFG ■*



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## Roadmap Guide Available

A completely up-to-date roadmap guide for San Diego county is available to residents and visitors for the San Diego 200th Anniversary, it has been announced.

The map, which represents more than four months of work by a team of cartographers, draftsmen, and writers, was formally presented to the 200th Anniversary, Inc., by the Automobile Club of Southern California during a dinner meeting of the Transportation Club of San Diego Thursday, January 19, 1969, at the Hilton Inn.

Joseph E. Havenner, executive vice-president of the Automobile Club of Southern California, presented special copies of the map to Charles E. Cordell, president, and Hugh A. Hall, celebration director of the 200th.

Field work on the San Diego 200th Anniversary map began last summer following a series of meetings between Auto Club and 200th officials.

"We checked many maps and found that important county locations were not indicated," Hall said, "and because of the variety and county-wide stage for the 200th, we wanted to be sure people could find their way."

Work on the map included special field research by cartographers to insure map accuracy, preparation of new map work by draftsmen, illustrations by an artist, and the writing of special 200th Anniversary material.

One highlight of the map shows the location of all 60 registered state historical landmarks in San Diego county including the designated site number and a description.

Included in the guide is an illustrated map of San Diego county, street maps of San Diego, Oceanside, Escondido, and Tijuana, and special detailed drawings of both the Old Town and Balboa Park areas.

Special travel and tourist information has been prepared on all areas of the county to help visitors locate key recreational areas.

200th Anniversary maps are available at the downtown headquarters, the 200th office in Oceanside, and various information centers throughout the county.



## PLAN(T) AHEAD

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Thurs., Fri., Sat., May 22, 23, & 24





PHOTO BY FRANK FORDYCE

IMPISH VAR. "JESSIE MABEL"

"Fiesta  
de  
Orquideas"

The next  
several articles  
were written by  
orchid specialists  
expressly for  
this issue  
of  
*California Garden*

TWENTY-THIRD ANNUAL SAN DIEGO COUNTY

*Theme: "Fiesta de Orquideas"*

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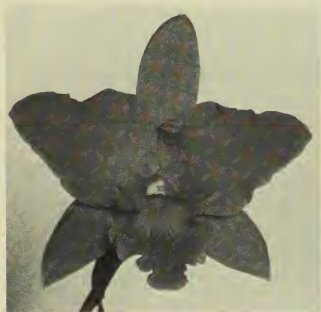
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PHOTOS  
FROM  
FRANK FORDYCE  
ORCHIDS

*Right: Joyce Harrington  
XC New Albion*



*Below: SLC Jewel Box  
"Scheherazade" HCC*



*Below: "Green Pastures"*



*Bc. Deesse, "Leconfle" (with small  
model) to show the immense bloom size*





# ORCHID LEAF FALL

—what does it mean?

by Frank Fordyce

**Y**ELLOWING and falling of leaves is often thought to be a sign of unhealthiness in a plant. This is possible, but it may be due to natural leaf fall. To illustrate: Natural ripening and shedding of foliage is a slow process, taking place at any time of the year, but it is more pronounced during spring and especially fall. Leaves are usually shed from bulbs that are 3 to 4 years old, depending upon the type. Rarely are leaves shed from more than one back-bulb at a time, or more than one bulb per year. This is normal for most cattleyas and cymbidiums.

Leaves may also yellow and drop because of poor care or culture, primarily over-watering or under-watering. The symptoms are similar. Falling leaves along with shriveled bulbs and small stunted growths would indicate these conditions. How does one check to see if he has been over-watering or under-watering? Take the plants out of their pots and look at the roots. In cases of over-watering, the roots will be soft, brown, soggy, and decayed. The outer layer of the root will strip easily from the center core. Dryness, or under-watering is far less serious than over-watering. When dry plants are taken from their pots, their roots are alive, white and firm. These plants may have lost some foliage, but by *carefully* watering a little more, they will soon be "back on their feet."

If the plants have lost their roots due to soggy conditions, it may be some time before they are thriving again. They must be completely repotted, into smaller pots, with new potting media, making sure that all old dead roots have been cut away. With newly potted plants, try to increase humidity to prevent any more leaf loss.

If bulbs shrivel and several leaves yellow and fall on the same plant—watch out! Unpot and treat accordingly.



From Frank Fordyce: *Lillian Stewart "Rose"*

Below: *Fordyce Orchids—Santa Barbara Exhibit, 1967*



# Orchid Species

by Florence Escobedo  
Rancho Flormando Orchids

THE WORD SPECIES is an ordinary sounding word to most people, but to the Orchidist, it immediately brings to mind the unusual, the unique, and the "something different" wanted in every collection. Every orchid grower, whether amateur, advanced hobbyist, or commercial grower, tends to have at least a few plants of the endless variety of species available. Please remember that the word species is used either singular or plural, and to use specie, referring to one plant is incorrect.

Many new orchidists are unaware of the tremendous variety of plants to be found in the species category. Many are of the opinion that they produce only small insignificant flowers which cannot compare with the "queenly" Cattleya. There are so many flower sizes, types, and colors, so many growth habits large and small, dwarf and miniature, such an endless selection from which to choose, that one can be quite selective in adding to his collection.

## Anticipation of Discovery

We have imported Species and Botanicals for many years from countries all over the world, and each shipment has never failed to bring excitement and hope that among the plants is that illusive varietal form, or possibly a natural hybrid, or a mutation, or even a plant long lost and now rediscovered. Historically they are found in the writings of Confucius, and are described in passages of history dating 300 to 400 years before Christ. Since man-made hybrids did not occur until the 19th century, any reference to orchids had to apply to the botanicals or species.

Species are so rewarding to both the novice and the advanced grower, as they are easily grown and easy to bloom. However, as with all rules of the thumb, there are a few exceptions that present

a challenge and fall in the "difficult" category. We agree with the quote we have heard for a number of years, author unknown, that "it takes a special kind of genius to kill an orchid."

## Planting Medium

We have used many growing mediums, some seemed a little more successful than others, but our species have never been fussy and seem to adapt quickly to our culture. Our theory has been to experiment in a small way as to what medium seemed easiest and available, and if successful, use this for all plantings.

While in Los Angeles County, we finally decided on redwood bark chips, which must be water soaked prior to using, and not allowed to really dry out. We used this for two years and found it very successful. For the novice, this is an excellent medium as it does not tend to break down as do some of the other products just when your plant is well established, and it does not get waterlogged. It is relatively free from fungus growths, insects, and worms.

## The Water Factor

In Los Angeles County, we had Owens Valley water. When we moved to the present location in San Diego County, we found we had Colorado River water which is high in a salt content. Our *Pescatora* and *Huntleya* species did not take to the water change and promptly quit! We again experimented with our growing medium in search for something not needing as much water, and decided to try redwood bark chips, sphagnum moss and decomposed granite, in about equal portions. This has proved excellent, as in uppotting to see what is going on in the root system, we have found good healthy growth. We pack our medium thumb tight, and as in every case with any growing medium, please remember to have good drainage.

## Slab Planting

We put some plants on slabs of hapu or Mexican tree fern. We prefer the black (Mexican) tree fern slabs to the brown (Hawaiian) as the breakdown is very slow and it lasts for years, and does not get as water logged. It is easy to use slabs. Lay your plant on the slab with a little sphagnum moss over the roots, anchor tightly with small wires so that the plant does not move or come loose. However, do not get "carried away" with the moss, as if it is too thick, the side to the roots does not get wet. Then you have defeated your purpose of providing the roots with sufficient moisture for good growth. We then submerge our plants in water, so that the slab and moss get thoroughly soaked, and thereafter spray the slabs each time we water the potted plants. Slabbed plants do beautifully on patios, as added moisture is given them each time you wash down the patio.

## Plants on Trees

Plants can be put in evergreen trees with filtered sunlight, by anchoring them at the fork or where large limbs join the trunk, with the aid of sphagnum moss and plant ties or strips of material. We put both *Cattleyas* and *Species* in Brazilian Pepper trees, and they survived dry spells, near freezing, and extreme Santa Ana winds. Live Oak trees are wonderful for a series of plants on the large lower limbs.

## For Apartment Dwellers

If you are an apartment dweller, you can either grow your orchids on window sills with filtered sunlight or with growing lights in any area. Humidity can be provided to them easily. One way is by using a pie tin and mason jar lid. Place the jar lid in the center of the pan, place small pebbles around it, fill with water

to top of lid. Place your plant on the lid, but be sure it is not sitting in the water.

You will find that you can both grow and bloom your plant well with this method. Occasional sprayings or mistings also helps. Deep soak your plant once a week by submerging in water and allowing to drain well.

#### Air Circulation

A primary requisite of all orchids is air circulation. They do not like stagnant air conditions and if you are the proud owner of a glasshouse, large or small, be sure to have fans for circulation. Those growing in lathhouses or patios of course are taken care of by nature. Growing in the house or apartment would be taken care of by the same means that it takes to make you comfortable.

While we have listed the mediums in which we grow, we still feel that each individual should use the one that best suits him, whether it be our selection or fir bark, osmundi, or chopped hapa. Each person waters differently and this in turn reflects on the growing medium.

There are so many genera to choose from, that it is difficult sometimes to decide just what you want. All are beautiful in one way or the other, but one genera may grow better in your area. We are listing a few things that should be easy for the novice to grow and yet interesting to the advanced orchidist.

#### What To Select

For greenhouse, lathhouse, patio, and home:

*Oncidium Carthaginense*: Mule-ear type leaves. 3- to 5-foot semi-erect scapes, shortly branched. Small flowers, about one inch, with slightly waved segments. Basic color is creamy white, heavily spotted with light pink to deep rose.

*Oncidium Excavatum*: Stout, shiny, light green pseudobulbs. Leaves up to one foot long. Scapes 2 to 5 feet, branched with many flowers. Sepals yellow, petals yellow sometimes spotted with red, lip canary yellow. Flowers about 1½ inches in size. Flowers are mostly at the terminal end of scapes forming a pom-pom effect.

*Oncidium Incurvum*: Semi-erect scapes, 3 to 5 feet long. Dainty flowers about one inch across, with sepals and petals rose pink, tipped with white. Lip is white. This makes up its spike and then seems to take forever before it actually blooms. The whip-like spike looks as

though it has already bloomed and care must be taken to not cut this when cleaning out old flowers. However, patience is rewarded as it suddenly sends out many short branches and flowers appear.

*Oncidium Flexuosum*: Slab culture only. Ascending rhizomes, scapes 3 feet high, slender and many flowered. Inch size, greenish-yellow marked with red-brown. Lip is bright yellow with reddish-brown on crest.

*Oncidium Hastatum*: Very tall arching scapes, sparsely branched, 2 inch flowers, star shaped, yellow-green with brown markings. Pseudobulbs elongated, about 2 inches high, with about 5-inch cattleya shaped leaves.

*Oncidium Maculatum*: Foot long scapes, flowers 2 inches across, yellowish-green, blotched with chestnut brown, lip yellow and white. Small pseudobulbs and narrow strap like leaves. Long lasting flowers.

*Epidendrum Ciliare*: White flowers on cattleya-like plant. Narrow sepals and petals, small fringed lip. Good grower.

*Epidendrum Cochleatum*: Called the "cockleshell Orchid" because of lip shape. Narrow, long sepals and petals, yellow-green. Lip almost black. Continuous flowering. Attractive flexible pointed leaves with flat egg-size pseudobulbs. *Epidendrum Floribundum*: Reed-like growth but nearly ½ inch thick. Tall, pendulous flowers, inch size, green with white lip.

*Epidendrum Hanburii*: 2-inch rounded bulbs, dark purplish-green. Spikes about 2 feet high, branched, with flowers approximately 2-inch size, brown in color with deep rose lip. The number of spikes usually put out by a mature plant, makes quite a showy display.

*Epidendrum Radiatum*: Bulbs 3 to 5 inches high, narrow leaves 5 to 8 inches long. Flowers up to 2 inches across, cream colored, shell-like lip is white with radiating purple lines. Very fragrant.

*Laelia Aneaps*: Flowers 3 to 4 inches across, deep rose, with crimson-purple lip, side lobes yellow. Short cattleya-like leaves, pseudobulbs about 2 inches, angular with small depressions.

*Laelia Cinnabarina*: Tall growing, with 12- to 24-inch erect spike. Flowers up to 3 inches across, pointed segments, bright cinnabar red.

*Laelia Cinnabarina* var. *Cowaniana*: Similar to above, but flowers yellow.

*Laelia Flava* var. *Gloedeniana*: Medium

size plant with elongated pseudobulbs, thicker at base. Tall spikes of inch size yellow flowers overcast with orange.

*Laelia Perrinii*: Cattleya-type growth with lovely 5-inch flat flowers. Sepals and petals light rose-mauve with front lobe of lip deep crimson, throat white.

*Brassavola Digbyana*: A must in every collection. Large greenish-white Cattleya-type flower with huge fringed lip. Very fragrant in evening hours. Plant has grayish cast.

*Brassavola Cucullata*: Terete type leaves with white fragrant spider-like flowers. Slightly fringed lip with long narrow sepals and petals.

*Cattleya Amethystoglossa*: Tall plants. Cluster of bright rose, purple spotted flowers with magenta-purple lips.

*Cattleya Labiata* var. *Autumnalis*: Large growing plants with 8-inch flowers, very showy; with color of bright rose with deeper lip, frilled and waved, yellow throat.

*Cattleya Warnerii*: Labiate type. Very large deep rose flowers, with deep crimson lip. Fragrant and long lasting. Very robust grower.

*Maxillaria Tenuifolia*: A must for every orchidist. Small rhizomes with erect rib-

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bon type leaves like wide blades of grass. Ascending or semi-climbing with rhizomes spaced a few inches apart, with base of bulb encased in brown imbricating parchment like covering, as is the stem bearing the numerous pseudobulbs. Flower bracts come from the base of the bulbs. These do well planted against fern slabs, totem pole effect, as ascending plant needs light support. Flowers 1 to 1½ inches in size, yellow petals and sepals spotted heavily with red. Lip same coloring with some purple spotting. Referred to most commonly as the "coconut pie orchid," and when in bloom, the entire area is as fragrant as a bakery just taking fresh baked coconut pies out of the oven.

This is only a very short listing of species that will do well in any growing area and under most all conditions. Space precludes listing many of the unusuals that would add to any collection, and yet are relatively easy to grow. Most of the listed plants are in the price range that most anyone can afford.

So add to your collection, and enjoy the species. We are quite sure you will be happy that you did. ■

### Flower Arrangers' Guild In "Fiesta de Orquideas"

Members of the Flower Arrangers Guild of San Diego will participate in the "Fiesta de Orquideas," Western Orchid Congress Show at the Conference Building in Balboa Park, April 17-20.

Mrs. Ralph Rosenberg, president of the Guild, states that the display of flower arrangements will carry out the 200th Anniversary of San Diego theme. This will be accomplished by the use of appropriate containers and accessories, and of course, orchids will be the dominant plant material.

The staging of these exhibits will be under the supervision of Mrs. J. Wells Hershey, Mrs. James F. Terrell, and Isamu Kawaguchi.

The Guild expects to participate, as a group, in several plant society shows this year in commemoration of the 200th anniversary. This is in lieu of having their own annual show.

—Mrs. John Casale

## HOW TRUE . . .

**O**VER FIFTY-FIVE YEARS AGO, in the December, 1906, issue of the "Orchid Review," Mr. J. M. Black wrote this amusing little article entitled, "Visitors."

"In the course of the year you are sure to have a good many visitors, and among others, there is sure to drop in, now and then, the individual who, while walking through your houses, talks incessantly of the plants he has at home. If he deigns at all to pass a remark about one of yours, it will be to compare it — unfavorably of course — to one that he flowered last year, has in bud, or saw, or heard of, or expects to hear of; but he nearly always has it at home. He will jubilate on the immensity of the bulbs *his* plants are making, and when you come to that special feature of yours — upon which you have come to rather pride yourself — he will acclaim, "Ah! you ought to see mine," and then will follow in molecular detail the wonderful treatment by which means only such great attainments can be gotten. By the time he has finished with you, you will feel limp and courageless, and will wonder how on earth you ever came to look on your plants as other than the veriest trash. Have as good an opinion of your orchids — and, incidentally, yourself — in the future as you have consistently had in the past, but do not expect other people to share that opinion in just the same degree." ■

### Join an Orchid Society — there is one that meets in your area

**T**HERE ARE A NUMBER of Orchid Societies in Southern California. The members of these Societies have many and varied interests in Orchids, both as hobbyists and commercial growers who developed the desire to grow Orchids in their homes or glasshouses.

For full enjoyment of growing Orchids, you should become a member of the American Orchid Society or the Orchid Digest Corp. (both publish excellent magazines) — and your nearest affiliated society. Both will welcome you and stand ready to help and guide you in obtaining maximum joy and recreation from orchids as a hobby.

Show your plants at your Society shows and enjoy the thrill of winning awards. The Societies meet once each month. The dues are nominal and the benefits derived are invaluable. Select the Society you wish to visit or join and you will be glad you did. For further details, write the American Orchid Society, Inc. Botanical Museum of Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass., 02138 or the Orchid Digest, c/o Mrs. John W. Fry, 76 Alpine Ave., Los Gatos, Calif. 95030. *In the San Diego Area:*

San Diego County Orchid Society, Inc., meeting the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 P.M. in the Floral Bldg., Balboa Park, San Diego.

Palomar Orchid Society, meeting the 3rd Wednesday each month at 7:30 P.M. in Room E4, Palomar College, San Marcos.

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THE HOBBY of growing orchids has increased in popularity as more economical potting media have been discovered. The use of fir bark and redwood bark and fiber have lowered the cost of maintaining an orchid collection. The hobbyist can grow his plants and have a wide variety of types that previously were enjoyed by only a few.

Other developments made it possible for the orchid fancier to have the finest quality plants at only a fraction of their original price. The first major discovery was made by Dr. Knudson of Cornell University back in the 1920's. He was able to germinate large quantities of orchid seed by sowing them in sterile flasks that contained a formula of nutrient agar.

Knudson came to California and set up an orchid laboratory at Armacost & Royston in Los Angeles. This organization began to produce a large number of orchid hybrids and many of them became famous stud plants for commercial growers around the world. Seedlings of these plants were purchased by plant enthusiasts and in discovering that orchids could be grown in California by an ama-

teur, others were encouraged to try orchids.

Gradually the California Orchid Society developed members throughout the State, and local societies were formed to advance the appreciation and improvement of orchids. The San Diego County Orchid Society follows in this tradition.

The second major development came in the last decade with the process of multiplying orchids known as *meristem* propagation. A Frenchman named Morel applied a technique on orchids that had been successfully used with carnations and carrots. To put it simply, and take the risk of over-simplifying a very com-

plex process, he cut a new growth from the mature pseudobulb, and cut off all the growth layers until he came to the smallest growing tip called the *meristem*. Carefully cutting off this tip under sterile conditions, he grew it in a nutrient solution until it had multiplied itself. He then repeated the process until he had a large quantity of plantlets of the exact structure of the original plant.

Plants that once only a connoisseur could own are now available at moderate prices. Stud plants often sell for hundreds of dollars for a single bulb. By *meristem* propagation, these highly awarded flowers may be grown and appreciated by a wider public. ■

## Orchids — a growing hobby

by John R. Walters

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# Cypripediums ...simplified

by Daniel L. Collin

THE CYPRIPEDIUM FAMILY which consists of four terrestrial genera has for over 100 years been one of Europe's most popular orchids. An explanation is that it is one of the most easily grown orchids in the home and garden. Unfortunately, Americans have basically ignored its possibilities for the reason that for years commercial growers have considered the plant a poor cut flower crop when the *Cattleya* and other allied genera produced so many flowers. This basic fact has changed with today's advanced methods of growing and a "revival" of this wonderful flower is taking place.

The four terrestrial genera, *Paphiopedilum* (Asia-most popular), *Phragmipedium* (South America), *Selenipedium* (South America) and *Cypripedium* (North Temperate Zones) are commonly referred to as *Cypripedium*, probably because the meaning of *Cypripedium* is translated "Lady Slipper" and all of the flowers are similar in form. All are most commonly found growing in their natural habitat in a medium of decaying vegetation at the base of trees, around limestone rocks or in swamps, always well shaded and near a constant source of water. The plants may be divided into two groups by the color of their foliage. The warm growing types are those with the mottled leaf and the cool growing types are those with the plain or solid green leaf. The cool growing types prefer a temperature of 55° to 60° night temperature and a daytime temperature of 75° to 80°. The warm growers prefer a night temperature of 60° to 65° and a day temperature of 75° to 85°. However,

I have seen both types grown very well in *Cattleya* houses under the benches. The cool types may withstand temperatures as low as 33° for short periods of time.

## Keep Them Moist

The basic secret of growing the *Cypripedium* family seems to be that you must provide them with water, never allowing the soil medium to become dry. The Rod McLellan Co. has proven this by setting 15 plants in a tray of water 1 inch deep for over 5 years and each year have grown well and produced as many flowers as those which were watered only two to three times per week. Although drastic, we have living proof. For years, growers have been afraid to allow water into the crowns of their plants for fear of rotting them off, yet these plants grow in areas of swamp, rain or constant spray from a waterfall. Keeping these facts in mind, we water our plants in the morning hours so that the plant has a chance to dry out during the day. It is only when water is allowed to stand overnight at warm temperatures does rot seem to appear. This would be especially true of our Southern United States areas or rainy humid interior valleys. *Cypripediums* seem to grow best between 750 and 1200 foot candles of light no matter where they are located in the United States.

## Soil Medium

Our soil medium seems the very best developed to date. We use a mix of 6 parts fine seedling bark and 6 parts coarse sand. This mix allows good drainage yet



*A beauty from the Rod McLellan Co.—Paph. Halo "Spring Shower." HCC AOS 77*

keeps the roots moist and firm. Some people have added a few chips of dolomite lime to the bottom of the pot which seems to help in those areas where water is poor. A basic 25-9-9, 30-10-10 or 30-10-20 fertilizer used as recommended every second or third watering is proper. You can always tell if you overfeed a *Cypripedium* as it will develop rust colored rings on the under surface of the leaf or the leaf tips will turn black and begin to shrink.

## Raise Them from Seed

The challenge of raising *Cypripediums* seems to be from seed. The seed must be soaked before sowing and allowed to germinate under darkness. Once germination starts give it the light normally given the *Cattleya* flask. We keep our *Cypripedium* seedlings at the same temperature as *Cattleya* seedlings once out of the flask until they are ready for the 3½ inch pot, then they are treated as mature plants.

## Hybridizing

In hybridizing, surprising results are obtained with *Cypripediums*. As an example *Cyp. Acteus Bianca* when used with a larger flower has produced beautiful full flowers. Yet, *Cyp. Acteus Bianca* is a rather poorly shaped washed out flower. We can trace these strange circumstances back to the species them-



*Photo from Rod McLellan Co., in San Francisco. A startling view of the evidence of variety in Orchid flower types. This is Papb. Millmoore "Maltese" AM 81.*

selves. Their chromosome numbers range from 26 to 48 and their gametes from 13 to 24. There is even a natural triploid in the group. In hybridizing *Cypripedium* the whole chromosome set is involved which produced polyploids in primary crosses. Each time a further cross was made with these polyploids, a higher risk of unreduced gametes in the progeny occurred and more frequently resulting in a variety of chromosome counts in plants from the same seed pod. For these reasons, poor seed production has been reported from many of today's plants. Chromosome counts have been recently reported in the range of 26 to 29 being near diploids to 53, 55, 70 and 92. It is therefore advisable for all of us to use at least one known plant which produces

a high amount of viable seed before making a cross. Should you decide to attack the problem by counting chromosomes, be certain to use a root-tip where chromosomes at metaphase have a consistent morphology. The chromosomes in the pollen are nearly impossible to read.

The possibilities of hybridizing this family has not even been touched. Some of the species produce long spikes producing 5 to 11 flowers per spike and yet few growers have taken advantage of this fact. The color range is very good, from white, pink, yellow, green, mahogany, maroon and lavender to combinations of all and con-colors of all. In cross-pollinating, make your cross as early as possible as it takes as long as 7 weeks or more in some cases for the pollen tubes

to grow. Their long blooming period (from October through June at the Rod McLellan Co.) gives the grower several chances a year to make a cross.

#### *Virus Free!*

As far as University research has been able to determine, the *Cypripedium* is virus free which cannot be stated for most other orchids. If fungus appears to be rotting your plant at the base or root system, simply remove it from the pot, wash off all the potting material, divide if necessary and repot in fresh material. These plants are best repotted right after blooming; however, if necessary, they do not seem to mind being repotted any time of year. As long as drainage is pro-

*Continued page 25*



## ROSES

*Recommended by the San Diego Rose Society for San Diego County*

<b>Hybrid Teas</b>	<b>Color</b>	Chrysler Imperial	DR	Montezuma	OR
Matterhorn	W	Oklahoma	DR	Queen Elizabeth	MP
Sweet Afton	W	Prima Ballerina	LR	Camelot	MP
Eclipse	MY	Fragrance	LR	Pink Parfait	PB
Golden Scepter	DY	Kordes Perfecta	PB	El Capitan	MR
Kings Ransom	DY	Invitation	AB	Roundelay	DR
Summer Sunshine	DY			Merry Widow	DR
Peace	YB	<b>Floribundas</b>	<b>Color</b>		
Champagne	YB	Saratoga	W	<b>Climbers</b>	<b>Color</b>
Lady Elgin	YB	Moonsprite	W	Mrs. Sam McGredy	OB
Tropicana	OR	Little Darling	YB	Sutters Gold	YB
Sutters Gold	OB	Circus	YB	Charlotte Armstrong	LR
Mojave	OB	Elizabeth of Glamis	MP	Improved Blaze	MR
Royal Highness	LP	Sarabande	OR	Joseph's Coat	RB
First Love	LP	Ginger	OR		
Eiffel Tower	MP	Tom Tom	LR	<b>Miniatures</b>	<b>Color</b>
Duet	MP	Windred Coulter	RB	Jet Trail	W
Bewitched	MP	Apricot Nectar	AB	Yellow Doll	MY
Mischief	MP	Heat Wave	MR	Cri Cri	MP
Columbus Queen	MP	Plain Talk	MR	Beauty Secret	MR
Tiffany	PB	Roman Holiday	RB	Robin	MP
Helen Traubel	PB	Palm Springs	RB	Eleanor	PB
Granada	PB			Pink Cameo (cl.)	MP
Swarthmore	PB	<b>Grandifloras</b>	<b>Color</b>	Toy Clown	PB
Mister Lincoln	MR	Mount Shasta	W	Hi Ho (cl.)	LR
Christian Dior	MR	Buccaneer	MY		

About  
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Center



**P** LANS FOR THE NEW Garden-Cultural Building in Balboa Park are in the making. The building, to be constructed starting late this year, is the long-awaited replacement for the now demolished Food & Beverage Building.

According to Mrs. Dorothy Orndorff, scheduling chairman for the Botanical Foundation, forms have been sent to all clubs asking what they will need in the building. Richard George Wheeler, architect, and Sam Hamill, consultant, will be utilizing these with an eye to incorporating the information into their planning of the building.

San Diego will have a truly outstanding Botanical section of the park with this new building. It is adjacent to the famous Botanical Building located at one end of the lily pond, adjacent to the Zoo with its botanical specialties, the rose garden and the Natural History Museum.

Educational features will be offered to the general public, as well as new ideas from the specialty clubs. For instance, presentations such as Richard Streeper's recently given on how to start roses from seed; how to start ferns from spores; how to start dahlias; and, of course, basics in horticulture for children.

It is hoped that classes will be made available for the public after the building is completed.

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ORCHIDS AS HOUSE PLANTS  
by John R. Walters

ORCHID HOBBYISTS number in the thousands in Southern California. They may have a greenhouse for growing their favorite varieties or they may select any place in the home, since many orchids can be acclimated to California living.

The general practice for having orchids in the home consists of providing enough light, moisture around the plant and good air circulation. We began our cattleya collection this way. A large glass baking dish was filled with coarse white gravel. The plant was placed so the blooms could be seen, and appreciated.

We took the advice of placing the plant near a window. The large west window would provide a good amount of light, but it also got pretty warm on the coffee table in that location.

We decided on a smaller south window. The radio and stereo provided a good display stand for the large white blooms. This area was also out of the way of drafts from the air ducts and would not dry out the flowers. After we had the plant situated, we added a couple of cups of tap water to the gravel.

We had purchased the plant with one flower partially open and with two more buds about ready to open. That thrill of conquest was followed by the haunting thought that maybe the other buds would not open for us.

Every time we went into the living room for the next several days we wondered, "Have we done it the right way, and will they reward us for all the time we had studied?" Fortunately, we did not have to wait long. We thought we noticed some changes in the buds the very next morning. The following day, we were sure, for the tip end of the buds were beginning to unlock their tight seams. Before long we had three handsome flowers growing in our home. These lasted for two weeks before the oldest bloom fell.

By this time we were "hooked" and we selected the dark lavender orchid to take its place. For about the next year we were never without an orchid bloom in that spot. When the plants were finished blooming, we placed them in our den among the bookcases under an east window. In the summer they were placed in our patio.

So — why wait for a greenhouse? ■

THE GENUS PHALAENOPSIS (pronounced Fal-en-op-siss), also commonly called the "Moth Orchid" is one of the most charming, graceful, and beautiful of all orchids. The name Phalaenopsis is derived from the Greek words "Phalaina," meaning moth, and "opsis," meaning resembling, because of its similarity to certain tropical moths.

The 50 species of this genus are widely distributed throughout the Asiatic tropics, from India to Indonesia; however, the majority and the most magnificent of these come from the Philippine Islands.

Mature plants will flower from two to four times a year. The flower spikes are tall and gracefully arched, carrying as many as thirty blooms on an unbranched stem. Blooms will last as long as three months. When the last of the flowers begin to wilt, the flower stem may be cut just below the node where the first flower on the stem was. Usually a lower node will initiate a secondary spike within two to four weeks when this is done. Within 85-95 days on the average, the first flower on the secondary spike will open. The flowers are sometimes smaller as is the case with spikes which are allowed to lateral.

The cultural requirements of Phalaenopsis are relatively simple, making them an ideal plant whether grown in the greenhouse or home. The following is a brief summary of cultural methods which have proved to be very rewarding.

#### Temperature

A minimum night temperature of 62-65 degrees is required for optimum growth, but temperature as low as 50 degrees will not harm the plant. Actually, contrary to orthodox Phalaenopsis culture, the lowering of the night temperature to 55 degrees for a period of 2-4 weeks, will induce the plants to initiate flower spikes. The day temperature should range between 75-85 degrees, although temperatures as high as 100 degrees for short periods of time will cause no harm if proper humidity and air movement are maintained.

#### Ventilation and Humidity

Good air movement is essential for good plant growth. Fans should be used all night and during cloudy, damp weather. Good air circulation helps to prevent bacterial diseases and flower spotting by botrytis. Phalaenopsis plants enjoy a

# PHALAENOPSIS CULTURE

relative humidity of around 60-70%.

#### Light

Phalaenopsis do best with a light intensity of 900-1200 foot candles. During dull winter months, this may be increased gradually to 1500 foot candles to harden the plants up.

#### Watering and Feeding

Always water early in the morning so that the plants are dry by night. The frequency of watering will depend on the potting media used and on the type of pot (plastic or clay), and the size. The media should always be damp, not soaking wet, and it should never be allowed to become completely dry. If grown in fir bark, Phalaenopsis should be fed every other watering with a fertilizer such as Blue Ribbon Grow 8-4-4, or Formula 3-1-2, Orchid plant food. If grown in osmunda or hapu, Phalaenopsis should be fed only once or twice a month. The application of Sequestrene 330 FE iron chelates once every three months is quite beneficial to the health and appearance of Phalaenopsis. Iron chelates also help to lower the pH.

#### Re-Potting, Potting Media, and Dividing

Phalaenopsis plants should be re-potted at least every eighteen months. Potting is usually done during the summer as the plants are in active growth at this time of year, and they will become reestablished quite readily. The choice of potting media is up to the individual. Osmunda, hapu, fir bark, redwood chips or pumice may be used with success. Fir bark is by far the most popular and easiest media to use. It can also be noted that fir bark seems to stimulate good root growth. If fir bark is used size  $\frac{1}{4}$ " to  $\frac{1}{2}$ " or the  $\frac{1}{4}$ " to  $\frac{5}{8}$ " is best.

At the time of repotting, all dead roots should be cut off, and the old stump below the new roots may be cut off. However, mature plants can be divided by cutting off the top portion of the plant,

by Elwood J. Carlson

just above the surface of the potting media, provided the top portion has an adequate number of roots to sustain itself when potted. Seal the cut on both the top portion and lower portion (stump) with tree seal or dust with sulphur. Pot the top portion of the plant in the normal manner, but do not disturb the stump. Within three to six weeks, one or more plantlets will sprout from the stump. When these plantlets have reached sufficient size and have roots two or three inches long, remove them from the stump and pot them in the normal manner.

After re-potting, it is advisable not to water until the following day so that any roots injured during re-potting can heal. If the plant is watered before all injuries are healed, bacterial or fungal disease may develop in the injured areas. Since Phalaenopsis are re-potted every eighteen months there is no need to use a pot over 10" in diameter for even the largest plants.

Plastic pots have a considerable advantage over other containers in that they are less expensive, light, and they retain moisture much longer, thus requiring less watering than when clay pots are used. Also, salt deposits do not build up in plastic pots, again allowing the advantage of healthier root tips and less dead roots.

#### Pests

Mealy bugs, thrip, slugs and snails are probably the worst pests that bother Phalaenopsis. Slugs and snails can be controlled with products which contain metaldehyde; Q.U.E. Bane Slug and Snail Bait, Last-Bite, and Corry's Slug and Snail are very effective. Mealy bug, thrip, and the majority of other pests can be controlled by use of insecticides such as Malathion, Isotox or Cygon. Maintain a monthly spray program; it will pay dividends.

#### Virus

Remember that virus can be transmitted by contaminated cutting tools, pots, and

*Continued*



## TRIBUTE TO A FRIEND . . . Tom Craig

*Continued from page 7*

hybrid . . . a cross of SNOW FLURRY X CAPITOLA which he thought was his best introduction and described it as a greyed CRAIG. MARY McLELLAN (Blue Ox X Chivalry) a deep violet blue self also made its debut the same year. Rancho de Las Flores was one of the most outstanding gardens on display during the 1956 National Convention of the American Iris Society.

### Many Awards

Throughout the years progress continued with the same dogged devotion and enthusiasm to improve his beloved iris. His almost stubborn tenacity brought him still greater awards. A member of the American Iris Society, he was appointed a Senior Judge after 20 years of faithful service. Twenty-four Honorable Mention Awards went to the Craig originations . . . two Awards of Merit—Bang and Frances Craig. In 1959 the Aril Society inaugurated the first C. G. White Memorial Award and this went to the lovely MARY McLELLAN, followed by the Sass Award (top award for an Intermediate Iris) for MOONCHILD in 1961. Then the coveted Hybridizers Medal was presented to Tom in 1963.

His very early work with gladiolus and his present day ventures with daylilies as well as his interest in the Spuria iris should also fit in with this article but time and deadline do not permit proper research into these adventures.

Always in search of better growing conditions for his iris, and the vast number of seedlings he grew each year, Tom purchased acreage in Hubbard, Oregon (about 1965) and during the past few years commuted between the two gardens. He felt the disappointments and loss of plant life we all suffered was not due to the plant itself but rather in our failure in choosing the proper iris (or plant) suitable for the area in which we live. As beautiful as some may grow in Oregon they would fail to produce in Southern California. Thus . . . to understand the growing conditions and to know the background of the plant would be a vital fac-

tor in selecting the correct iris for our own garden.

So far I have concentrated on his work in connection with the world of flowers but we still have Tom the Artist and Teacher. His love of painting was forever present and his keen sense of coloring is shown in the many fine watercolor paintings he has skillfully created. I was fortunate to see his art studio at Escondido and to view the many beautiful paintings displayed on the walls so it is no wonder that in this field too he collected various awards. He served as instructor in Art in Occidental College, San Diego Museum, University of California, and the Chouinart Art Institute at Los Angeles. He held a one man art show in San Diego (1930) and won the Blair Prize in an International Water Color Show in Chicago before World War II. Finally his talents won him a Guggenheim Fellowship in Art.

### Tom as a person . . . a friend

We now start to draw our story to a close and the most difficult part of all . . . Tom the Man. What kind of a person was he? What was he like as a personal friend? To spend a few hours in "just

talking" with such a man is hard to describe without getting a bit sentimental, but surely to be treasured in one's memory. Warm and generous . . . eager and willing to share his knowledge with others were but a few of his many virtues. A true individualist, doing what he wanted when he wanted, which enabled him to express his moods in a fashion only he could do. His hearty laugh and personality was as vibrant as his talents. To escape the spell of this irresistible man was . . . impossible.

He passed away at his ranch home at Escondido February 8th, 1969, shortly after his return from Oregon. Yet, when Spring awakens the earth he loved so much and his colorful flowers burst into bloom, do you think he will be too far away? His heritage to all of us is indeed great. We of the flower world know, and must face the fact that in the midst of life, there must be an inevitable withering away! To live in the hearts we leave behind is not to die!

Barbara Serdyski, 3433 Laclede Ave., Los Angeles, Cal. 90039.

(Earlier facts in this article were used with the permission of the Aril Society, International.)

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## Cyripediums

*Continued from page 20*

vided they may be potted in plastic, clay or fancy glazed pots. Of course the clay pot requires a more frequent watering than the plastic or glazed pots.

These plants may be grown in the home, lathhouse, greenhouse and even out of doors in frost free areas along the West Coast. Their lasting quality is excellent, most will last on the plant six to eight weeks and cut flowers from two to three weeks. They are excellent as a daytime corsage flower as they lend themselves so harmoniously to the colors and textures of women's suits. Easily grown by amateur and commercial grower alike, there is recently a noticeable revitalization of interest in this genus. ■

## Book Review

### You Can Grow Cattleya Orchids

"You can grow orchids" is the convincing affirmation of the series of paperbacks written by Mary Noble. These books are designed to help the novice gain confidence in growing and enjoying orchids.

The new title in her series is one of the most informative books yet produced on a single genera. It is so well written that a beginner can refer to it as a handbook for all aspects of cattleya culture. Its non-technical style is accompanied by illustrations and pictures to enhance one's knowledge of the cattleya group of orchids.

Miss Noble has included 57 black and white photographs of cattleya alliance flowers and plants. Line drawings by Marion Ruff Sheehan show details of flower structures. Other examples of the 47 illustrations include plates of plant forms and flower types.

Not all orchids are orchid color. To prove to the reader that cattleyas come in many other colors than the traditional lavender or white, Miss Noble chose 25 color plates of cattleyas in red, yellow, white and green.

A glossary of terms "The Language of Orchids" will be a helpful reference for all orchidists. The table of "Genus Names" will aid in understanding the numerous genera combined in hybridizing the modern cattleya.

For those who want to study the vari-

ous potting media in current use, Miss Noble gives the proportions of each substance. Directions and illustrations for potting are included for those who have missed the potting demonstration classes.

One of the valuable contributions of this new text is the table of insecticides and the suggested dosage for the common orchid pests.

Gordon Dillon reviewed the book in the July 1968 issue of the *American Orchid Society Bulletin* (p. 576). He concluded his review with the statement that "this booklet should prove to be as deservedly popular to novices as Miss Noble's other books of this nature. Its broad but concise content should make it equally useful to experienced growers as well."

This book should become a basic text for orchid growers everywhere. Many novice classes will want to include this excellent book in the list of required reading.

—J. R. Walters

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*Two orchids showing the wide variations in flower types*

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stakes. Be sure to flame cutting tools and stakes each time that they are used. Wash used pots in a strong solution of Clorox. Always keep your hands clean when handling plants as virus can easily be spread this way. It is advantageous in the long run to destroy all plants with virus since they can be a direct source of infection to your entire collection.

If you have not yet tried the beautiful Phalaenopsis, get one soon. Your Phalaenopsis will reward you with a profusion of blooms and a magnificent array of colors throughout the year, year after year. ■

#### A ROSE IS A ROSE—IS ALSO THE RENT!

Did you know that an unusual and customary flower event, which revolves around one red rose, occurs every year in West Grove, Pennsylvania?

During September, a red rose is presented to a descendant of William Penn. Last year the rose was given to Miss Miriam Penn-Gaskell Hall, on behalf of the Conard-Pyle Company, Star Rose growers.

The rose is rent payment for lands in accordance with a deed executed in 1731. This September the celebration will mark the 238th anniversary of the first red rose payment. ■

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## WEEDS AND ORCHIDS

*by Frank Fordyce*

**A** SHORT TIME AGO, my daughter presented me with a question that ultimately led me to some rather startling observations. Her simple childlike question was, "Daddy, what is a weed?"

Upon checking our dictionary, I found that a weed is a plant that grows where it is not wanted.

My daughter then said, "Why do you grow orchids? Some of them look like weeds."

In searching for a simple answer, the weight of the real truth came upon me in the fact that something not wanted in one place may be highly prized in another. It could be said that the status of a weed may be determined by a point of view. ■

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Mr. Clem Runner of La Mesa Nursery and Mr. Del Johnston of Yoshi's Nursery presented the 200th Anniversary with a Brisbane Box Tree in honor of Arbor Day from the California Nurserymen Association, San Diego Chapter.

The tree was planted in the Pink Plaza, Fiesta 200 area, on Friday, March 7th.

# Cymbidiums . . . Make Hay in April-May for Next Year's Blooms

by E. Hetherington

NATURE PARDONS NO ERRORS, nor does she admit to any good intentions. This aphorism sums up the sins which are committed by orchid growers, large and small. Stated another way, the basic law of cause and effect applies in all our growing. We make a mistake and we pay the price. If we do spray our plants for red spider, we suffer the consequences — damaged foliage. Your Cymbidiums are in bloom and you know you have slugs and snails, but do not put out the bait. You pay the price, flowers full of holes.

We are now well into spring and most of our Cymbidiums have finished flowering. Many of the plants need shifting on or dividing. We must do the things that need doing to our Cymbidium plants at this time, or we will pay the price in blooms next spring. Sometimes this price is quite high in no blooms, or flowers of poor quality. The seasonal changes in culture which we must give our plants at this time are perhaps more drastic and dramatic than for any other genus of orchids. When they are in bloom, from January through April, we grow them cool and keep them well shaded to prolong the flowering and develop optimum flower quality. As soon as late April or May comes we must turn everything topsyturvy and think of only one thing — growth. We want to force our plants so as to get the new growths up so they will be well developed by late summer and early fall to initiate spikes for next season's blooms. May is the time when we must "make hay."

Before we go into the details of what must be done in the spring, let us start a calendar year to establish the perspective and see the contrast. Throughout the late fall and winter, our spikes have already shown and we do not have to worry about getting our plants to spike. Now, we must concern ourselves with maintaining optimum conditions to develop our spikes. The days are short and there is not much light. Watch for slugs and snails and give them a nitrogen feeding on sunny days to get up the spikes. As we get to February and March and they are in bloom, we must keep them cool at all

times (not over 80 degrees), shade them quite heavily (around 1,000-foot candles, more or less) and have good air circulation. Do not let the house get hot and do keep your plants well watered. With these conditions the spikes develop best, the flowers have the clearest color, and last the longest.

We also minimize some of the dangers of bud development, such as twisting and turning of petals, and fading of colors from too much light.

## Light and Heat

We are now into May and the blooming season is over. Our shady, cool woodland glen, with delicate blooming Cymbidium must be changed. Off comes the shading to bring light into our house — glaring bright. Now that the growing season is with us, we want heat — lots of heat, night and day. We want lots of water — keep the plants wet, if they are in good health and growing well. Give your plants a good soaking — drenching — letting lots of water run through the bottom of the pot, two or three times a week. Put some high nitrogen, slowly water soluble organic top dressing on the surface of your pots, so that every time they get a watering, they will get some food. Give them the regular fertilizer program of high nitrogen, 30-10-10, 1 tbs. to 1 gal. (one pound to a hundred gallons water) every week or ten days. Let your night temperatures run to whatever it may. If the nights are warm, leave your ventilators open. Let your temperatures in the daytime run up into the 80's and perhaps well into the 90's. If your plants are out of doors, make sure that you have light saran only over them, or lath which is not too close. If they are shaded by trees, full sun without burning their leaves is what you want. Between the first and the 10th of August, switch over to a 6-30-30 low nitrogen, high phosphorus-potassium fertilizer, but keep up the water and light till all the spikes have shown, in October or November.

## Repotting

Now let us go back to May. We have some repotting at this time to do. All

plants which have filled the container with growth, but which do not need dividing, should be shifted on without delay to a larger container. How do you tell a simple shift on? Plants which are seedlings or which have from 5 to 9 bulbs with leaves and only one or two, or no back bulbs, should not be divided. Basically, a plant flowers best when it has been left undivided longest, and is the largest. If, however, you do have plants which need dividing, the sooner the better at this time.

Divide plants which are quite large and which have a number of leafless, rootless back bulbs in their centers. Try and divide so that you obtain divisions of leaved pseudobulbs of from 3 to 6 bulbs each. Back bulbs, if the varieties are good, may be removed and stripped of all leaf stumps, and roots. They should then be planted to 1/3 of their depth, where they will form new plants.

The care of plants after dividing is very important. Dividing is quite a shock. The best care after division is to put them in a shady spot which is quite warm and very humid. Give them a good drink after repotting and spray a couple of times a day, if possible.

As soon as you see a good growth and perhaps root action, move the plants to a bright house or area and give the normal care of plants at this time.

May is a good time to shift on all small seedlings, or any plants that will benefit from fresh potting mix and a larger pot size. With small seedlings we are interested only in growth the year around until they reach maturity. Consequently, they like lots of heat, water, and high nitrogen fertilizer.

By observing the basic cultural procedures which we have outlined, a successful blooming season the following year is assured. If our new growths are large enough in the late summer and early fall and we give them enough light, plus a temperature change between night and day, we will have a good crop of flowers the following spring. ■

# Leaves from a California Florist's Notebook

BY ALICE M. RAINFORD

Editor's Foreword: The following excerpt is another from Miss Alice M. Rainford's projected book, rich in floricultural, horticultural and artistic knowledge and experience. The book will be called "Leaves from a California Florist's Notebook." Through its pages (much of which will be previewed in CALIFORNIA GARDEN throughout this 200th Anniversary year), will be found many fascinating sidelights of persons and events of days gone by. We are indebted to Miss Rainford, and to Mrs. Alice Clark who has been responsible for compiling Miss Rainford's writing on this subject, particularly treasured by the readers of this magazine.

WITH POPULARITY of the new and exotic styles added to our older and custom styles of furniture, flowers can be displayed in more imaginative and artistic ways than ever before. However, if flowers are to enhance and beautify, they should be in harmony with the decor of the room.

Their colors should be chosen in relation to the background and they should be arranged in containers and in styles suited to their environment. Tropical or exotic flowers will lose their effect in Victorian or rustic settings. Nor is a simple bowl of garden flowers, so at home in a cottage, adaptable for Victorian or formal modern decor. Always choose vases and flowers that will enhance the design of the room.

Rugs and hangings generally have a secondary color blended with the dominant one. Flowers that reflect that note have an enjoyable effect, a lift that is like spices added to cuisine. A splash of color

in the center of a flower often gives nature's hint of attractive color combination.

A quick method to make sure of a complementary color is to place a flower petal or a piece of ribbon of the color in question on a large sheet of white paper and concentrate a fixed stare on it for a few minutes. Remove the colored material, continue to gaze at the empty spot and the complementary color will appear; tones of yellow following blue, etc.

For rooms furnished in dark wood, often highlighted with upholstery and drapes of a golden tone, select flowers in blends of yellow. If textile decorations are in deeper shades of rust or brown, try copper or flame colored roses or snapdragons. In the fall it is easy to find a wide range of colors from yellow to flame in chrysanthemums and dahlias.

A variety of flower colors are good with blond woods but watch out for the chair covers and drapes which are often

brilliant. In this case match your flowers to the bright reds or vivid pinks or use a preponderance of greenery. When orange accessories predominate there are soft shades of pale yellow in gladiolus, zinnias and dahlias. If there's a small amount of orange, strelitzias may be effective.

Strong colors in furnishings take away the exquisite tone of pale pink blossoms, so lovely in the garden. Light pink roses in an all-white room is exquisite. Long sprays of single pink roses are beautiful on a white mantle and may be artistic with the beautiful dainty white clusters of *Clematis paniculate*, which may trail gracefully over the bowl.

Pink is also good in a room dominated by a Chinese rug with its inimitable subdued tones of blue, pink and ivory.

A large off-white crackleware vase in Ming pottery is perfect, with either white or pink fruit blossoms, in such a setting. A Chien Lung vase, with a soft blue ornamentation in simple geometrical pattern, harmonizes beautifully with a Chinese rug. It is especially handsome when filled with nelumbium, the very pink water lily of the orient, often miscalled lotus. The long stiff stem standing high above the water makes it desirable for decoration. In addition to the delightful fragrance, a bit of wax in the center will hold the blossom open at night.

Rose shades in room scheme call for flowers of white, cream and light blues, although shades of rich dark red (such as roses and gladiolus) make a fine contrast.

Pale green walls are a wonderful background for all flowers. Soft gray green is lovely for the deeper pink flowers such as sprays of antigonun vine, rubrum lilies and pink asters which are available in late spring and summer.

(To be continued in our June-July issue)

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## A Compliment For Miss Rainford

Information Center  
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Editor, CALIFORNIA GARDEN

I must tell you that the preview: *LEAVES FROM A CALIFORNIA FLORIST'S NOTEBOOK* was to me a most fascinating article.

I have long admired Miss Rainford, as having, along with Kate Sessions, made a considerable contribution to local

appreciation of horticulture as a value in civic beauty.

This article intrigued me particularly because of the interpretation, psychologically, of color as it is found in nature.

Having been aware of color values in art and music, I found Miss Rainford's discussion of feelings produced by various flowers a new thought.

I shall look forward to subsequent chapters of the book in California Garden.

Sincerely yours,  
Florence Christman



## CHECK SOIL BEFORE YOUR NEXT PLANTING

by Ed Bechowsky, Butler's Mill

Spring and summer months usually bring out the desire to plant new trees, shrubs, ground covers or lawns. But where we have problem soils as we do in San Diego County, it is true that the new plantings may be on the way out soon after planting.

The major problem with our soils is not what plant nutrients may be lacking nearly so much as what physical changes are needed before planting.

You can always add fertilizer to soil if that's all it lacks. The big problem with all but very sandy soils is that once they are planted and watered they become more and more compacted. As the soil becomes more tightly packed, you could compare the condition to hardening of the arteries. Water, nutrients, oxygen and roots have a harder and harder time getting through, and waste carbon dioxide gas doesn't escape.

Much has been learned about adding organic matter to soils in recent years and how this compaction or tight soil problem can be alleviated. We know that all organic matter will fluff up soil at first but we find that after a few months the tightness in a soil will vary depending on the material used.

The reason that all organic matter is not the same is due to the amount of cellulose in each material. Once the organic material is in the soil, it is attacked by soil bacteria. So the higher amount of cellulose in any material, the more completely it is consumed by bacteria.

Research has shown that if organic matter is burned just short of combustion (by placing it in an acid bath and then heating it to 1500° in a closed burner for a short time) that it is left

only with a lignin shell. This lignin shell is comparable to our bone structure representing the lignin and the water in our bodies likened to cellulose.

One product that has been treated in this manner is called Loamite. This material is made by taking 100 yards of redwood or fir sawdust and treating it in the acid and heat treatment. Only 15 yards of the final Loamite product is made from the original 100 yards. Since the cellulose has been burned off, the Loamite is highly resistant to bacterial attack. Usage over the past 15 years has proven that Loamite keeps its form in the soil and indications are that it will last at least 20 years. Most of the organic material that we use lasts from 6 months to 3½ years in the soil.

The major cause for plant failure in a compacted soil is lack of sufficient air. Thus we can see what happens when the organic amendment is consumed by bacteria—it isn't there to keep the soil particles apart and sufficient air is not available for roots to survive.

Another insurance for the best possible plant growth is the use of the slow release Agriform Planting tablets. These tablets do not dissolve and are broken down by bacteria in the soil over a full year. As the bacteria work on the tablet the nutrients are released so the plant roots receive a small amount of food over a year's time. This fertilization means no ups and downs in plant growth so stronger roots develop. This is the new method of fertilization that is widely used in commercial landscaping. These tablets come in various sizes—from a 5 gram one for ice plant, ivy and other ground covers to the 21 gram tablet for 1 gallon size plants and larger. ■

## SHARE YOUR FLOWER AND PLANT IDEAS!

We welcome readers' contributions. If you have an idea for an article you'd like to write, phone the editor, who will be glad to assist you with it. Or, pass on those handy tips we all enjoy running onto; write a letter to the editor if you have something to say that you think our readers would like to hear. We enjoy hearing from you, and welcome new contributors. Write or phone: Mrs. Virginia Norell, Editor, CALIFORNIA GARDEN magazine, 9173 Overton Avenue, San Diego, California 92123. 277-8893. Copy is due 30 days before publication. (Tenth of January, March, May, July, September, November.)

## WATCH FOR OUR ANNIVERSARY ISSUE of CALIFORNIA GARDEN

JUNE-JULY 1969

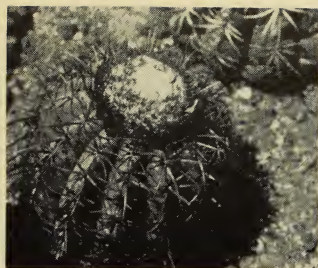
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on Page 35



*Melocactus Oaxacensis*



*Melocactus Delessertianus*

## OBSERVATIONS OF THE TURK'S CAP, MELOCACTUS

by Gilbert D. Voss

THE GENUS *melocactus* Link & Otto (*Cactus* L.) is characterized by the presence of a terminal cephalium composed of interlocking spirals of floriferous tubercles. These tubercles have areoles which are spineless, but very woolly and usually with a varying number of bristles. The plants are small, rarely meter high, globose to cylindric in shape, and composed of nine to twenty wide ribs bearing areoles, with relatively stiff clusters of spines.

The small pinkish flowers, which arise from the top of the cephalium, are short lived and appear in the mid-afternoon. They usually open only with extreme heat. The edible fruits are large and range from red to pink (rarely white) in color.

The taxonomy of *Melocactus* is confusing owing to its age as a generic entity and its extreme intraspecific variability.

This problem is exemplified by *Melocactus macranthus* (Salm-Dyck) Link & Otto, originally described by Salm-Dyck in 1820, which has no less than 109 synonyms (Britton & Rose 1937). After this example it is little wonder that there is much argument as to the number of bona-fide species within the genus.

It is also interesting to note that the genus is confusing—in the totality of its

range—the West Indies (source of *M. Macracanthus*), Mexico, Central America and South America.

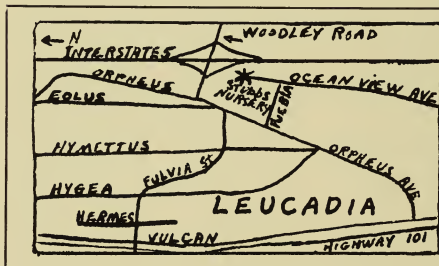
In Mexico there are presently three very similar species recognized, *M. oaxacensis* Britt & Rose, *M. delessertianus* Lemaire and *M. dawsonii* Bravo.

The above species are primarily known from three widely separated localities, *M. oaxacensis* being the Southern-most. It is probable that continued work in the field will yield additional localities supporting

my hypothesis that the three Mexican species are really one variable species or perhaps subspecies, together with the already questioned Central American species, *M. ruertin* and *M. maxonii* (Kinnach 1962). If this is true, *M. delessertianus* would be the name of this variable species owing to the laws of priority, it being the earlier described species (1839).

The genus *Melocactus* is one of the most difficult of the cactus family to cultivate. In the wild the plants are found growing in areas with an indefinite amount of rainfall and in a soil of very loose nature. They are sometimes found in rock with a light covering of duff and litter over the roots. Plants are subject to fungal invasions, making it necessary to watch them closely.

Seedling plants of several species are sometimes found in cactus nurseries, but they are very slow growing unless grafted. Occasionally one will come upon mature imported specimens for sale, but these are usually difficult to root and only live a year or two. It is a pity that the plants are ever removed from the wild. Often small plants are tremendously old and they live only a short time when disturbed. ■



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# Calendar of Care

## PLANTS AND THEIR ENVIRONMENT

by George James  
Garden Care Feature Writer

### MEET OUR NEW GARDEN CARE FEATURE WRITER

... an experienced horticulturist  
and teacher, Mr. George James

FREDERICK GEORGE JAMES is the son of a nurseryman and has lived in the San Diego area since 1913. He came to National City with his parents and a brother and a sister from London, England. His father bought the Bower's Nursery on Third Street in National City soon after his arrival and moved it to the corner of Fifth Street and National Avenue a year later. Mr. James Sr. continued the operation of the nursery at this location until his death in 1939.

The two sons, Edward and George (as Frederick George was called to avoid confusion with the father, who was also Frederick) formed a partnership under the name of F. W. James & Son and continued the business at the same location. Edward later separated from the partnership and opened a nursery under his own name in Coronado.

George's training started early in life, as he worked for his father from early boyhood on, and before graduation from High School had served a term of apprenticeship with Mr. Gustave Tensfel at his nursery in National City where Kentia palms and Bird-of-Paradise were the plants produced.

After graduation from High School Mr. James attended U.C. at Davis, then known as the College of Agriculture, where he majored in

Ornamental Horticulture. Following this he worked for a large florist shop in San Francisco as a designer.

He then returned to National City and was associated with his father in the operation of the business which had grown to consist of a retail florist shop, the retail nursery, and a landscape contracting department. Following Pearl Harbor in 1941, Mr. James assumed the management of over 100 acres of vegetable crops which had been left unattended by the internment of the Japanese owners, and continued to grow vegetables as well as operate the retail nursery and landscape business until the end of World War II.

When the war ended the vegetable growing was discontinued and the nursery business enlarged by the addition of a wholesale growing grounds and the planting of over two acres of bird-of-paradise for the production of cut flowers. Starting in 1963 and ending in 1964, the nursery and flower production were phased out and the business closed. Since that time Mr. James has conducted Gardening Classes under the sponsorship of the Adult Schools of the area. He now has classes in Chula Vista, National City, and La Jolla, and expects to start classes soon in Coronado and El Cajon.

—Editor

IN THE FORTHCOMING ISSUES of the CALIFORNIA GARDEN it is my intention to discuss the environment of plants and its various effects on them.

Gardeners usually consider some of the phases of the environment when selecting plants. They realize that certain plants require shade, or that some plants which grow well in other parts of the country are not satisfactory here because we lack the deep winter cold.

They may overlook other environmental factors, or fail to realize how environmental factors may affect each other.

As a result of this one has but to look around to find plants struggling against conditions they are not able to cope with. This situation can be avoided. If a plant is chosen with some consideration given to the plant's ability to grow well under the environment existing in the place it is to be used, one can reasonably expect good results.

Before one can select the proper plants, it is necessary to evaluate the situation as it exists, know what improvements are possible, then go on to find the plant or plants that will be happy with this situation.

To help you accomplish this is what this series of articles will attempt to do.

The environmental needs of the plants usually used in the basic landscape planting will be considered, primarily, as I feel that the needs of special garden plants, such as roses, irises, camellias, and other favorites have in the past, and will in the future, receive adequate treatment in these pages from writers who are experts in their particular area of gardening.

\* \* \*

### SOILS

The soil is one of the most important environmental factors in the growth of plants.

There is a great difference in the way plants will grow in different soils, and this should be taken into consideration in selecting plants, for the ultimate size and the rate of growth will be influenced by the soil in which they are planted.

Gardeners often evaluate soil by its fertility, but soil has other characteristics, as it relates to plants, that are more im-



portant than fertility. Fertility is not difficult nor expensive to improve, so should not be too important in our thinking of garden soils.

### *Why is our soil poor?*

Southern California soils are generally of a poor quality, both in their physical structure and their fertility. Gardeners from other parts of the country often have difficulty in adjusting their gardening habits to this soil.

The difference in the soils here and elsewhere may be explained in part by the climate. Areas where the rainfall is more generous and extends over a larger part of the year are likely to have a more suitable soil for gardening. There are problem soils and soil problems in all areas, but it seems as if Southern California has more than its share.

There are favored spots in Southern California where the native soil is of good quality, and gardeners who are fortunate enough to garden on such soils, have many less problems than do gardeners who must grow their plants on a marginal soil, and it is to gardeners with the marginal soil that these remarks are addressed.

Areas which have historically enjoyed liberal and frequent rainfall have had their soil improved by the crops of native vegetation which have grown over the ages and decayed back into the ground. In our area the rainfall has always been scant and as a result far less native vegetation has grown and decayed back into it. Many of the soils in our area form crusts easily, do not drain well, retain harmful salts from our irrigation water, and are difficult to work with.

### *Problems of Clay Soils*

Clay soils, or soils with a great deal of clay in them have these unpleasant characteristics. Clay is defined as a plastic soil, one that can be molded when moist, and will retain the shape it is molded into.

The soil in the garden may be a mixture of two or more soil types, such as a clay-loam, which will mold and retain its shape after molding in the same manner as pure clay, and can be improved by the same means as will be described later on for the improvement of pure clay. (From this point on all soils, from pure clay to those which contain clay plus another soil type, will be referred to as "clay soils.")

Clay soils may be known to some as

adobe soils, and by either name they are sticky when wet, hard when dry, and difficult to work at nearly any time.

Clays may occur as surface soils, or as sub-strata, with a thin layer of better soil over their surface. In both cases, the clay may extend downward for many feet. Deep layers of clay defy improvement of the entire mass, and hamper the growth of many plants by retaining water for too long a period of time. This is damaging to the plant's roots. Severe conditions of this nature can kill plants, while less severe cases will slow the growth and may result in dead terminal growth. Where the clay soil is of a great depth, the selection of shrubs and trees with the best ability to withstand the situation is the best approach to the problem.

If the clay is in a strata not over four feet in depth, and the gardener suspects there is a layer below that will drain the water faster, adequate drainage could be provided by digging a small hole through the clay, backfilling it with a material that will not compact, and in this way assure the plant good drainage.

• *More Next Issue. If you have questions for Mr. James, please send them to him c/o Editor, California Garden, 9173 Overton Avenue, San Diego, California 92123.*

## DAHLIAS

by Larry Sisk,  
San Diego County Dahlia Society

FROM NOW until the latter part of June dahlias may be planted with good results in the Coastal areas of California. In the inland areas, and north of Los Angeles and Santa Barbara, the best planting time is the latter part of April until the latter part of May.

As has been said in this space several times, dahlias are easy to grow if the gardener has reasonable success with other flowers and vegetation. As with the others, dahlias require some help to produce the best, but average care will produce better results than the same kind of care for almost any other annual.

Basic requirements are:

1—Loose soil tilled to a depth of 12-18 inches at planting time.

2—Planting of healthy roots (or plants).

3—Proper planting near a stake, with the dahlia root on the side and eye or sprout pointing up and about 2 inches from the stake.

4—Watering in at time of planting, and thereafter only when the top of the soil is dry.

5—Pinching out the plants (only the growing tips) when they have developed three or four sets of leaves.

6—Using systemic insecticides or spraying regularly to prevent bug and worm damage.

7—Pruning back or disbranching the plants if large flowers are desired.

8—Disbudding canes to permit only one flower for each.

9—Cutting wilted or faded blossoms when they have passed their prime so the plants will continue to bloom.

As is the case for other gardening or other hobbies, the harder a person works, the more satisfaction. Some of the harder and extra work with dahlias include:

1—Cultivating around each plant until the first buds are fully developed. Scratching the top of the soil with a 3-prong tool will keep it loose so the roots will breathe. This should be done when the soil dries after each watering, or when the soil crusts over. After the buds form, the cultivating should cease so that roots of the plants near the surface will not be damaged.

2—Fertilizing the plants regularly: a handful of bonemeal stirred into the soil at the time of planting, and feeding the growing plants about every two to four weeks. Fertilize with fish emulsion or prepared fertilizer, either liquid or granulated, using a low-nitrogen content such as 4-10-10, 5-10-10 or (best) 5-12-12. This should be applied before watering, and if liquids are used, dampen the soil, feed, then water in.

3—Mulching around the plants if convenient when cultivating stops. The mulch may be peatmoss, vermiculite, shavings, sawdust, bark, steer, compost, or, for expediency, garden soil raked from nearby areas and mounded over the plants' root areas. Mulching conserves moisture, discourages weeds, and protects the roots from late-summer heat.

4—Setting out plants instead of roots, and growing one's own plants by taking cuttings from the sprouts that develop on the roots before they are planted. This phase of hobby gardening should have

been pursued six weeks or so prior to planting time; now, taking of cuttings and getting them to strike require almost a professional touch, due to the heat, dry air, and other factors that often prove difficult hurdles for the amateur.

5—Overhead-spray watering or fogging of dahlia plants occasionally on extremely hot days improves growth by refreshing the plants and providing desirable humidity. Deep watering, instead of sprinkling, is essential; a regular schedule of watering every seven days, or more frequently for real sandy soil, is recommended.

6—Pruning, disbudding and disbudding with intensive care are better than average tending. To get the utmost from the large varieties, plants should be disbudded to three or four canes with no more than four blooms per plant at one time. A staggered sequence of blooms may be obtained by pinching lateral canes at intervals, and then reducing the new canes that will develop to the desired number.

Medium-sized varieties with blooms 6 to 8 inches across should be limited to six or seven canes. For best exhibition blooms of some varieties, plants with five canes are best.

Florist varieties, 4 to 6 inches, may be permitted to attain 6 to 10 canes, with one flower on each.

Conversely, miniatures, 4 inches and under, and pompons, 2 inches and under, should be pinched back two or three times to encourage more canes and more flowers; the smallest blooms possible of these, with many blooms to each plant, should be sought. Disbudding, with only one bloom on each cane, is necessary for perfection of blossom, but the disbudding might be delayed until a few days before cutting the flowers of these smaller varieties.

Timing of dahlia plants to encourage blooming at a specific time—say, for the shows—is an art developed by the advanced hobbyist. To obtain fairly accurate results one needs to know his varieties and the approximate growth habits. An average, however, is that the large and medium varieties will bloom 90 to 100 or 110 days after planting, or for most, 60 days after topping or pinching, depending on normal warm growing conditions. The small varieties will bloom 25 to 45 days after topping.

7—Fighting the insects is essential to all growing things in Southern California, and is especially essential in the produc-

tion of exhibition or good-quality dahlias. That extra care starts at the time the little dahlia sprout pushes its way to the surface. If systemic granules were not planted with the root, spraying of the small plants immediately will protect them from thrips and aphids. If systemics are not used, this first spraying should be DDT or a standard insecticide containing DDT or a chemical that will discourage thrips.

Thereafter, regular spraying is necessary. Applying insecticides immediately after watering, while the ground and plants are wet, is best. Use an all-purpose combination or malathion. If an infestation of worms develops in the face of use of standard insecticides, mixing arsenate of lead in the spray solution will clean up the dahlias. Later, if the malathion does not prevent red spider attacks, spray with kelthane or solutions containing a high percentage of kelthane. Use karathane to combat mildew, and in desperation, resort to sulphur dust.

But, if all this extra care seems too formidable, go back to the nine basic points mentioned at the beginning, and you'll be delighted with the fine dahlias you produce.

## FUCHSIAS

by Morrison W. Doty  
San Diego Fuchsia Society

WITH THE ADVENT of April there are some very important chores for the fuchsia grower or new gardener from the East to remember. First reminder should be for more frequent and regular watering, especially of all container plants. These hot days often come between chilly or foggy nights that fool you into thinking there is moisture when there is none. Warm windy weather, or a real Santa Ana heat wave between cool foggy nights may easily kill beautiful basket plants before a new gardener realizes they could be too dry. Unless watered regularly every two or three days on warm days, or finger-tested for moisture oftener, container plants may be quickly lost in hot weather. Strange sometimes experimental soil mixtures that don't hold moisture at the root center of plants may cause sud-

den heart failure losses also, hence simple soil mixes are safest for the amateur.

### Special Container Care Tips

With so much container gardening now, all such plants should be checked for container repair, plenty of new soil replacement, and repotting if necessary. There are some good soil replacement mixtures at fuchsia nurseries that are fairly complete alone. They may include fir bark, peat, redwood products, and sponge rock. But fortunately fuchsias are naturally hearty feeders, and adaptable. Simple mixtures such as equal parts rich sandy loam, good leaf mold and rotted cow manure, with perhaps a little blood and bone meal added, will produce results about equal to most complex and expensive commercial mixes.

The main thing our Southern California soil lacks is *humus*, such as is found in areas of heavier rainfall and vegetation or like the silt in some of our ravines. Good weed-free manure, or a little Milorganite may be worked in around the larger plants, taking care not to injure near surface roots.

You can depend on the regular feeding of liquid fish concentrate, weekly (if for show plants); hi-nitrogen, like 10-5-5 at first for sturdy growth; then hi-phosphorus such as 4-10-8 (or similar formulae) a while before show for big rich blooms! After blooming heavily fuchsias like to rest from feeding too frequently and bloom repeatedly all season.

Force feeding very long, or too much stimulation, as with sulphate of ammonia is not good. There is a new commercial fertilizer of granulated magnesium ammonium nitrate, ammonium phosphate, and magnesium potassium phosphate, with a ratio of 6 or 7% nitrogen and potassium to about 40% magnesium ammonium phosphate. It is claimed to re-

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place frequent other fertilizer feeding, by releasing the right amount of nitrogen only as it can be accepted by plants. Some types of it even include a systemic pesticide, all to be fed into the plant's circulation as the granules are slowly dissolved in watering and cultivation. Some growers claim it fine for them, with different kinds of plants. However, most fuchsia folks we know still prefer the inexpensive proven liquid fish concentrates, and the simple mild preventive pest sprays.

Don't forget to keep pinching out the tips of new growth to shape the plants to their proper type. The pinched tips will divide again and again to make more abundant bloom. The resultant delay in blooming allows the plants time for more sturdy growth to resist pests and repeat blooming. After having pinched into the proper shape, stop (to allow the new blossoms to set on) perhaps two or three weeks before your planned peak bloom.

Baskets and container plants will hold moisture much longer if they are lined with metal, plastic, roofing, or some impervious material, rather than clay pots or slates with moss etc. Mobility of baskets and containers allows you to use more or less shade, sun, warmth, light and air without too much wind, and a choice of plants of bright colors for dull nooks in the garden. Plants that cannot be moved should be chosen with your fuchsia nursery's advice. Check for heat and cold resistance tendencies, as well as for hi-growing, low or trailing type, according to the place set aside in your garden plan.

Don't be afraid to cut branches that have grown far out of shape for its type, any time during the year. Make cuttings from them in tiny plastic cups — for exchange with garden friends.

You should surely join your fuchsia society for the mutual advantage and enjoyment offered.

Browse the nurseries for more information, and seek some that specialize in new varieties if you wish, although many of the old stand-bys among the over 3000 name varieties will never be surpassed, we feel sure. ■

# IRISES

by Frank Hutchinson

Secretary, San Diego-Imperial  
Counties Iris Society

**I**N OUR WARM CLIMATE there has been some iris bloom all winter. By late April plantings of spurias and tall bearded irises should be at their best. Plan to visit local gardens and the display beds at the commercial growers. One of the best places to see and compare varieties is at the Spring Iris Show, Convention Hall, Balboa Park, April 26-27.

## Selecting Iris Varieties

Some of our readers have been looking over their gardens and making plans to discontinue some plants in order to make room for summer planting of irises. It has been fun dreaming over catalogs. The problem is now a matter of limited planting space and limited funds. A large order the first year may easily use up both space and money with little chance for adding new varieties in later years. Also, irises multiply and require more space upon replanting. Some of our members dig and plant every year. Get a few of a few dozen varieties and plan to add new ones each year. Be very selective. There are hundreds of very desirable varieties. If possible, see the varieties before mailing your order. For your first attempt, buy from local growers. Substance and form are as important as color. If an iris bloom has poor substance it will not stand up under garden conditions and you soon will want to dump the variety. Growers often mention heavy substance when it is a significant characteristic. Since the shorter irises bloom earlier, you may wish to add some of these. For a long-blooming winter iris, consider iris unguicularis (Stylosa). Unless you very much admire one of the older tall bearded varieties, avoid starting your planting with old varieties. Many of them do well in colder climates but are reluctant bloomers here. They cannot compete

with those bred more recently. Irises introduced during the last ten years should dominate your planting.

## Reblooming Irises

In our favored climate certain tall bearded irises bloom in spring at the time of the local iris show and again sometime in the second half of the year, many of them at the time of the iris show in the fall. These reblooming irises are called remontants and are listed either separately in catalogs or in the regular list, identified as rebloomers. We asked our local members to name the best rebloomers in their gardens. Of the one hundred fifty varieties submitted by members, fifty were successful and popular in several gardens. The best of these are listed for those who would like to order a few remontants for their own plantings. If planted, remontants should be in separate beds where it is easy to water and fertilize them, keeping them growing and blooming during the many months when other irises are dormant. Some iris enthusiasts have no interest in growing these because they consider most of them in-

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ferior to the spring-blooming tall bearded irises. On the other hand, some gardens in Southern California have irises blooming every week of the year. See these before you buy them. The more recent introductions listed have remountant tendencies but one should realize that it takes several years to determine dependability. Some of these may have failed to reach the top of the list because of their newness and high price. (Year of introduction in parentheses.)

*The five most popular rebloomers:*

Cayenne Capers ('61), Steeplechase ('57), Joseph's Mantle ('49), Beauatcher ('55), and Rodeo ('47).

*The next twelve favorites:* Bang ('55), Chant ('60), Chinquapin ('60), Fluted Haven ('58), Happy Birthday ('52), Henna Stitches ('61), Maricopa ('64), Patricia Craig ('62), Ruth's Love ('62), Valhalla ('62), Western Hills (old), and the intermediate Moonchild ('56).

*The next ten favorites:* Adam ('62), County Fair ('66), Cream Crest ('59), Grand Teton ('56), Lady Mohr (old), Pacific Panorama ('60), Snow Goddess (old), Visiting Nurse ('65), Winter Rose ('60), and the standard dwarf

Brassie ('58).

*Fourteen recent introductions from the next twenty-three favorites:* Briney ('64), Candle Magic ('61), Commentary ('63), Crinoline ('65), Golden Sensation ('67), Grand Spectator ('65), Latest Love ('63), Lorna Lynn ('61), Milestone ('65), Nineveh ('66), Piety ('60), Rum Jungle ('63), Sudden Spring ('65), and Tyrolean Blue ('63).

**Culture**

April and May are months to enjoy the results of your previous work! Don't allow aphids and thrips to spoil your planting. Use Cygon 2-E. Give plenty of water until bloom is finished. Overhead watering may spoil show stalks. Do not fertilize. Cut bloom stalks clear to the ground. New growth comes from the buried rhizome.

**Planning for Summer**

Make plans for any necessary replanting. Instead of replanting before summer vacation you can wait until as late as September without affecting spring bloom, particularly at the lower elevations. Obtain a balanced fertilizer, such as 10-10-10, to apply in June about a month after bloom. Tall bearded irises may be set any month of the year. If a rhizome is old and dry after weeks or months out of the ground, plant it! It will probably grow well. More specific directions for replanting will be covered in the next issue. ■

# ORCHIDS

What To Do For  
Cymbidiums In April

by Frank Fordyce, Oceanside

IT IS QUITE EVIDENT that in looking about us and observing the tremendous volume of top quality flowers borne on such robust plants, that Cymbidium growers and hobbyists alike are finding that the hardy Cymbidium Orchid is just another plant that thrives on good basic common sense growing. Until recently the Cymbidium, as in other Orchid genera, was set upon a pedestal and regarded as some mysterious "difficult to grow" rare and unusual plant. But now, after much theorizing and hushed talk, it is found that

they respond much like any other plant, given the care typical of its native surroundings.

As the Spring Orchid Shows progress, we can truthfully say that this has been the best season for new and finer Cymbidiums as new hybrids arrived on the scene in quantity.

**Shading**

During this month many of your fine varieties will be at their blooming peak, and careful thought should be given to the matter of shading. Have you noticed that greens, in particular, need heavy shading when in bud if they have any tendency at all toward a bronze suffusion? Additional shade allows you to enjoy a clearer shade of green. One of the handiest and easiest to use shade materials is the Saran shade cloth that may be purchased in many densities of light. This may be used in the garden over your plants for additional shade (and protection from hail damage) or over the greenhouse for shade during the bud to flower period.

**Bud Drop**

Bud drop occasionally plagues every grower, and it is a wise grower who carefully watches for unusually bright shafts of light on the buds, excessive dryness at the roots, or stagnant air conditions in the greenhouse. Avoid spraying buds with insecticide spray containing a solvent carrier. Use instead, either wettable powder spray dusts, or the newer systemic insecticides that are applied through the root system.

**Feeding Program**

This is a good month to start that feeding program you have been neglecting and follow a regular feeding program on all your plants. Remembering that the months of March through August are the main growing and rooting months,

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you should provide the plants with a well-balanced high nitrogen food in order to start a good root and growth action. For the very busy gardener, new slow-release fertilizers are available that need be applied only 3 - 4 times per year. The more active the human body is, the more nourishment it demands and this is also true of the Cymbidiums.

April is the month during which most plant life seems to awaken and it is very important that your plants be properly prepared for the growing season just beginning. Your early bloomers, non-bloomers, and back-bulb propagations should have been attended to by now and only your flowering plants should require looking after. As soon as the spikes are cut these too must receive attention. Get them into fresh compost if they have not been disturbed for two years or more. Don't be afraid to disturb the roots of a plant after it flowers. I know a few commercial growers cut all the roots back to only four inches as they repot. However most of us cut only the dead or excessively long roots back. Just before repotting, allow each plant to dry at the roots thereby reducing the brittleness of the roots so they will not break so easily. Keep your plants in good-size divisions of at least 3 - 4 bulbs per plant for best results. If your plant has several leafless dormant back-bulbs, it is wise to remove them when repotting and start them again. Do not "overpot" unless the plant is an exceptional grower, as too large a pot often keeps the soil excessively wet resulting in loss of roots. After repotting, place plant temporarily in a well shaded, humid condition and supply moisture by frequent spraying of foliage and outside of pot. This will prevent bulb shrivelage. When active root action shows, normal light and food may be resumed. Please remember—resolve this Spring and Summer to give your plants much more light and thorough drenching of water at each application. If you do this you can feed more heavily too, and this balance of light water, and food will pay dividends in the Fall when spikes begin to show. ■



## Calendar of Care

## ROSES

by J. Wells Hershey and Mary Jane Hershey  
San Diego Rose Society

**A**CCORDING TO Dr. Robert E. Atkinson, in the *Home* magazine section of the *Los Angeles Times'* Sunday edition of January 12, 1969, "You could create a whole rose garden out of the All-America selections for 1969."

**ANGEL FACE**—lavender floribunda, a Herb Swim development is the first lavender rose to receive the All-America honors. Considered a once-in-a-lifetime kind of rose it is a fantasy-like blend of a rich deep lavender color, the bud of Grecian Urn shape and has a spicy, old fragrance. Blossoms up to four-inches across are born in clusters and they last well when cut (note this all flower arrangers). Its plants are low, broad, evenly growing and well-shaped—perfect for locating in the foreground of the rose garden. "Angel Face" is the result of a cross (Circus X Lavender Pinocchio) X Sterling Silver.

**PASCAL**—white hybrid tea, a Louis Lens of Belgium creation is probably the whitest white to be found among today's popular hybrid tea cultivars. Its blooms are remarkably beautiful in form regardless of weather or season, has a graceful urn-shaped bud which opens to a medium-sized bloom with 35 to 40 petals, holding its bud-like center even until the outer petals drop. As to the plant, it grows erect, is vigorous and has handsome, dis-



Angel Face

ease-resistant foliage. It is resistant to mildew, it breaks readily and produces its blooms in a steady succession. "Pascal" is internationally known, having won a gold medal at the Hague, a silver medal at Baden-Baden, first certificates at Rome and Paris, and certificates of merit at Geneva, Madrid, London and Vienna. Its parentage is "Queen Elizabeth" X "White Butterfly."

**COMANCHE**—an orange-red grandiflora is tall enough to serve as a background plant, and will add sparkle to any garden with its bold, high-centered blooms produced in candelabra clusters throughout the year. The fiery scarlet buds unfold to fully double four-inch and larger blooms of more than 50 petals. The plant stands a tall vigorous five feet, yet it is bushy and produces a steady succession of beautiful blooms, has bright leathery green foliage, and had good resistance to disease. Exhibitors and arrangers will delight in its perfect buds and the excellent substance and form of the fully opened flowers. "Comanche" parentage is "Spartan" X ("Carousel" X "Happiness") and is another Swim & Weeks development.

**GENE BOERNER**—Pink floribunda, the only pink rose to receive an All-America award for 1969, was developed by Eugene S. Boerner and has been

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named to commemorate the late Eugene S. Boerner, long-time plant research director and developer of more than 160 patented rose cultivars for the Jackson & Perkins Co. He created 180 patented varieties in his lifetime, including 11 All-Americas. This winner is an exceptionally free blooming deep, clear pink. In constant bloom, its bud and flower form are uniformly superior. Buds open slowly with an interesting spiral effect, unfurling into clean full flowers are borne in clusters and frequently on long cutting stems of 10 or 12 inches. The plant is upright and very symmetrical because of its free branching habit, is constantly well filled with foliage and remains clean and green throughout the entire growing season.

A rose can attain no higher honor than that of receiving the Award of the All-America Rose Selections (AARS), and to receive it indicates that the rose has been observed for two seasons and found to be a superior variety in the 22 official trial gardens authorized by All-America Rose Selections (an organization of introducers and commercial growers). Roses entered in the AARS competitions are planted in the 22 official test gardens under conditions similar to those of the average well-cared-for garden. Each such rose is rated in successive stages of growth, bloom and dormancy, and the one or two or more that pass the extremely strict test are announced early in the following year. So high are the standards of the All-America selectors that no roses were accepted as worthy of the AARS symbol in 1951 and no hybrid tea roses in 1954. The American Rose Society has no connection with the All-America Rose Selections, other than announcing the selections each year.

\* \* \*

**G**OOD GRIEF! Here it is "Analysis" time again in the good ole rose garden. That's right. "And now let's see" what we should be doing in our rose garden.

One thing for certain—the rose bush responds to the type of care it is given, and as this is really the beginning of the new year for the rose bloom, a few New Year's resolutions might be in order.

To grow roses successfully, states the new edition of the *Sunset Western Garden Book*, you must: (1) Buy healthy, No. 1 plants in varieties suited to your climate; (2) Locate and plant them properly; and (3) Supply their four basic needs: water, nutrients, pruning and pest

and disease control. Well, resolve to buy at least one of the newer roses for your garden this year. If you buy bushes growing in five-gallon cans, transplanting should be fairly easy, and if you place any value on your own time, you will always buy NUMBER ONE plants.

**Watering:** The second resolution might be about water. In our area of the State of California, water is too expensive to waste. The rose is a thirsty plant and must be watered during the growing season. The exact amount that any one rose bush may require cannot be given due to the variations in climate and soil conditions in this area, but the bushes should get enough water for vigorous growth at all times of the blooming, growing year.

**Watering to full root depth** produces the best results, which means penetration of at least 16 to 18 inches. One way to know if your bushes are receiving enough water is to dig down and find out for yourself. The other is to time the application of water to match the ability of your soil to absorb it. This is done by timing the irrigation of the rose bed, and the next day digging down to see how far the water penetrated. If it only penetrated 10 inches in an hour, you know that you will have to double the time at the next watering if you want to penetrate to 20 inches.

How often you water is another problem. If you have sandy soil, water is quickly absorbed and quickly exhausted, so watering intervals should be from four to ten days. If you have loam soil, watering intervals should be from eight to fifteen days. And if you have clay soil, watering intervals should be from fifteen to thirty days. During those hot, dry spells it will be necessary to water more frequently. A day of hot, dry wind will draw out of leaves a great deal of moisture which will have to be replaced promptly.

**Nutrients:** The third resolution should be about fertilizing. After all that wonderful rain we had this past winter (and didn't it seem like it would never stop), followed by the first feeding after the showing of new growth on the bushes, your roses should be ready for the gathering of the first crop of blooms.

#### *When to feed*

According to authorities, it usually takes about five or six weeks from the start of the flowering shoot to the opening of the bud. For example: If you had planned to enter blooms in the San

Diego Rose Show on April 12-13, your first feeding would have been approximately March 1. If you are planning to exhibit in the Mother's Day Rose Show held annually at Rose Hills Memorial Park, Whittier, California, you would start the fertilizing about 30 March, and if you are planning to exhibit rose blooms in our San Diego County Fair at Del Mar next June-July, your next scheduled feeding would be about May 10.

All gardeners have their own individual methods of feeding their rose plants. You can apply fertilizing materials to the soil surface above the roots; or apply the nutrient materials through the leaves; or by the mulch of manure, leaf mold, enriched peat moss, or other organic materials. The three basic elements needed for healthy growth of roses are nitrogen, phosphorus (phosphoric acid), and potassium. These elements are present in all garden soils, but the rose plants eventually use up the supply, and it must be replenished. Nitrogen is the element which produces the green growth, phosphorus provides the most help during the blooming period and potassium (potash) assists both nitrogen and phosphorus in providing growth and bloom.

Either organic fertilizer or inorganic fertilizer can be used in the rose garden, and a well-rounded program of rose feeding employs both. Why? Well, inorganic fertilizer is faster acting than organic fertilizer, as it contains the basic elements in a more concentrated form. However, organic fertilizer contributes to maintaining the humus content of the soil and to the supplementing the soil bacteria population.

#### *Pest Control Program*

**Pest and disease control:** The fourth resolution should be the control of insect pests and diseases. If you have a nice healthy rose garden that has been pruned, fed and watered properly you will have very little trouble with this category. In our area, a sound pest control program begins in the winter, after pruning when you have removed and burned all old leaves, and have tidied up the rose bed, and sprayed with a dormant spray. The principal pests are aphids, spider mites and in some areas, thrips. To control aphids, spray with contact insecticides as soon as the aphids first appear, and repeat as needed. Spider mites can be controlled by spraying with a miticide until infestation is wiped out, or use a systemic insecticide. ■



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553 Spruce St., Imperial Beach 92032

**LA JOLLA GARDEN CLUB**  
Meets First Tuesday each month except July & August. Mt. Soledad Presbyterian Church 1:00 p.m.  
Pres.: Mrs. John Marx 459-6417  
1216 La Jolla Rancho Rd., La Jolla 92037

**LAKESIDE GARDEN CLUB**  
3rd Monday, Lakeside Farm School, 7:30 p.m.  
Pres.: Mrs. Loy M. Smith 443-3089  
7511 Farmington Dr., Lakeside 92040

**LA MESA WOMAN'S CLUB (Garden Section)**  
3rd Thursday, La Mesa Women's Club, 1:00 p.m.  
Pres.: Mrs. Allen W. Carpenter 583-7508  
5169 Ewing, S.D.

**LEMON GROVE WOMAN'S CLUB (Garden Section)**  
First Tuesday, Lemon Grove Woman's Club House, 1 p.m.  
Pres.: Mrs. Hal Crow 466-3330  
3850 Quarry Rd., La Mesa

**MISSION GARDEN CLUB**  
Meets First Monday, 8 p.m.  
Barbour Hall, Pershing and University  
Mrs. Vera Elmar 477-5344  
1216 16th St., National City 92050

**NORTH COUNTY ROSE SOCIETY**  
Meets First Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. at Palomar College  
Pres.: James A. Kirk 748-3870  
1531 Espola Road, Poway

**NORTH COUNTY SHADE PLANT CLUB**  
Second Sat., 1:30 p.m. Seacoast Hall, Encinitas  
Pres.: Howard M. Voss 753-5415  
1200 Birmingham Dr., Encinitas 92024

**O. C. IT GROW GARDEN CLUB**  
Second Wednesday, S. Oceanside School Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.  
Pres.: Mrs. John B. Stanton 726-1466  
1858 Avocado Dr., Vista 92083

**PACIFIC BEACH GARDEN CLUB**  
Meets second Monday, 7:30 p.m. Community Club House, Gresham and Diamond Sts., Pacific Beach  
Pres.: Mrs. Edward J. Reemar 488-9609  
900 Agate St., S.D. 92109

**SAN DIEGO PALM SOCIETY**  
Pres.: Mrs. John B. Stanton  
**PALOMAR CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY**  
Third Saturday, 1 p.m., Palomar College Foreign Language Building, Room F22  
Pres.: Mrs. Mildred Groom 724-4986  
339 S. Melrose Dr., Vista 92083

**PALOMAR ORCHID SOCIETY**  
Meets Third Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., Avocado Inn, 114 Hillside Terrace, Vista  
Pres.: Eugene A. Casey 753-3571  
932 Crest Drive, Encinitas

**POWAY VALLEY GARDEN CLUB**  
2nd Wednesday, 9:30 a.m., Community Church  
Pres.: Mrs. Leo C. Gustafson 748-8270  
1338 Frame Rd. Poway 92064

**RANCHO SANTE FE GARDEN CLUB**  
Second Tuesday-Club House, 2:00 p.m.  
Pres.: Hubert Larson 756-1926  
P.O. Box 782 Rancho Santa Fe 92067

**SAN CARLOS GARDEN CLUB**  
Fourth Tuesday, San Carlos Club, 6955 Golfcrest Drive  
Pres.: Mrs. Douglas Oldfield 463-0692  
6372 Lake Levon San Diego

**SAN DIEGO BRANCH AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY**  
Fourth Monday, Barbour Hall - Univ & Pershing, 8 p.m.  
Pres.: Mrs. Mary Hofmann 284-4449  
3227 33rd Street, San Diego 92104

**SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD SOCIETY**  
Second Monday, 8 p.m. 4174 Nebo Dr. La Mesa  
Pres.: Mrs. Jackie Harkin 424-3456  
2626 Coronado Ave., Space 116  
San Diego 92108

**SAN DIEGUITO GARDEN CLUB**  
Third Wednesday, Seacoast Savings Building, Encinitas, 10 a.m.  
Pres.: Mrs. Waldo Vogt 755-4772  
737 Barbara Ave., Solana Beach 92075

**SAN MARCOS GARDEN CLUB**  
Pres.: Mr. E. C. Pfender 744-0226  
1221 San Julian Dr., San Marcos 92069

**SAN MIGUEL BRANCH AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY**  
First Wed., Youth Center, Lemon Grove  
Pres.: Mrs. Mary Birchell 466-7631  
6070 Sanito St., La Mesa 92041

**SANTA MARIA VALLEY GARDEN CLUB**  
Second Monday, Ramona Women's Club House, 5th and Main, 9:30 a.m.  
V-Pres.: Mrs. Winifred Posik 789-0531  
723 E St. Ramona 92005

**SANTÉE WOMEN'S CLUB Garden Sec.**  
Pres.: Mrs. Leon Roloff 448-0291  
9138 Willow Grove Ave., Santee 92071

**VALLE GARDEN CLUB, POWAY**  
Meets 3rd Thursday, 10 a.m. Homes of members  
Pres.: Mrs. Brown Thompson 111  
16788 Espola Rd., Poway 92064

**VISTA GARDEN CLUB**  
First Friday, Vista Rec. Center 1:00 p.m.  
Pres.: Mrs. Wm L. Larsen 726-3622  
100 Mar Vista Dr., Vista 92083

**VISTA MESA GARDEN CLUB**  
Second Tuesday, 2 p.m., Family Association Center  
Pres.: Mrs. Clara Haskins 465-0910  
2352 El Prado, Lemon Grove 92045

CALIFORNIA GARDEN  
San Diego Floral Association  
Floral Building, Balboa Park  
San Diego, Ca. 92101

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A photograph of a stone garden path leading down between stone walls. The path is made of dark, flat stones and is flanked by high, rough-hewn stone walls. The walls are constructed from irregular stones of various sizes and colors, including shades of grey, brown, and tan. The path leads down a slight incline, and there are some dry leaves and small plants scattered along its edges. The overall scene is a close-up, focusing on the texture and structure of the stone masonry.

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lead you down  
the garden path...

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